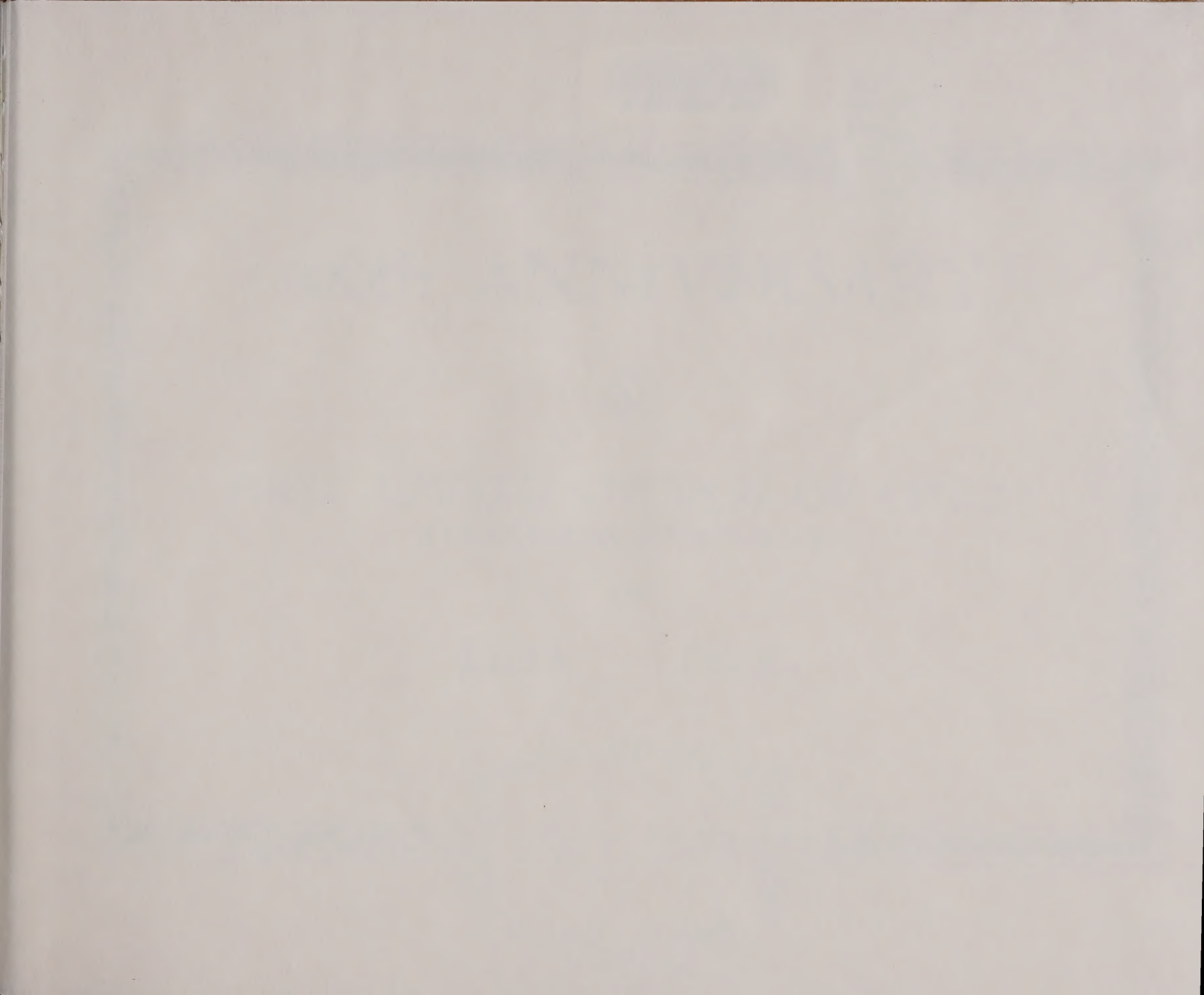








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100th ANNIVERSARY



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(EVANGELICAL and REFORMED)

OF

LIMA - OHIO

1863 - 1963

1863 » Centennial Souvenir « 1963

*"Dein Wort Ist
Meines Fusses Leuchte
Und Ein Licht Auf
Meinem Wege"*
—PSALM 119:105



*"Thy Word Is A
Lamp Unto My Feet
And A Light Unto
My Path"*
—PSALM 119:105

PRESENT BUILDING — 1963

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(EVANGELICAL and REFORMED)

WAYNE AND WEST STREETS

LIMA, OHIO

OCTOBER 1963

Foreword and Acknowledgments

Herewith presented is the souvenir booklet issued in commemoration of the one hundredth birthday of First United Church of Christ (Evangelical and Reformed) of Lima, Ohio.

Every effort has been made to present an authentic and comprehensive history of our church and an illustrated story of its founding and growth through the decades. Official church records have been examined as well as copies of old Lima newspapers and contact has been made with older church members. The archives of the Allen County Historical Society and of the Evangelical and Reformed Church Historical Society at Lancaster, Pennsylvania have provided much information not contained in previous anniversary booklets. While errors and omissions are bound to occur, we trust that they will be few in number and it is our sincere desire that this publication serve the purpose for which it is intended.

The Centennial Booklet Committee gratefully acknowledges the assistance given in the preparation of this brochure by many persons, members and non-members of our church, who have furnished information and photographs for use herein.

In particular, we desire to thank the following: Rev. and Mrs. Richard P. Vitz; Mr. and Mrs. August Lange; Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Wolf; Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Daniels; Mrs. Howard Saddler, church secretary; Mrs. Phyllis Leech, assistant curator of the Allen County Museum; Mr. Herbert B. Anstaett, Librarian, and Miss Elizabeth Keiffer, archivist, Historical Society of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

LEE G. VAN BLARGAN

Chairman, Centennial Booklet Committee

Dedication

To the Honor and Glory of the Everlasting God whose all-seeing eye has carefully watched over this congregation for the past 100 years.

To the Memory of the faithful band of German settlers who courageously founded THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL REFORMED CONGREGATION OF LIMA, OHIO in the darkest days of the American Civil War and to the loyal members who have never wavered in their devotion to this church; and

To the Appreciation of all who now participate in the work of THE FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED) OF LIMA, OHIO, and to the future members of this great congregation,

—This Centennial Souvenir Booklet is humbly dedicated.

THE CENTENNIAL BOOKLET COMMITTEE

Lee G. Van Blargan, Chairman
Mrs. W. R. Daniels
Mrs. Vernon Neuman
Miss Marguerite Dickman
Mr. Frank Spragg
Mrs. Ben Green
Mrs. Roger Page

Centennial Committee



First Row, left to right—Miss Marguerite Dickman, Mrs. W. R. Daniels, Mrs. Frank Spragg, Mrs. Inez Herold, Mrs. Donald Riner, Mrs. Vernon Neuman, Mrs. Harry Hoeper, Mrs. Dorothy Rothe, Mrs. Roger Page, Mrs. John McNett

Second Row, left to right—Rev. Richard P. Vitz, Mr. Robert

Tussing, Mr. Lee G. Van Blargan, Mr. Roger Page, Mr. Harry Hoeper, Mr. Carl Rhoda, Mr. Walter King

Third Row, left to right—Mr. Victor Moser, Mr. Frank Spragg, Mr. William Rummel, Mr. Grover Neuman, Mr. Loren Van Meter, Mr. Florenz Clausing, Mr. John Walters, Mr. Vernon Neuman

Composition of Centennial Committees

General Committee: Mr. Vernon Neuman, Chairman; Mr. Roger Page, Mr. Arthur Orchard, Rev. Richard P. Vitz

Centennial Booklet and Exhibits Committee: Mr. Lee G. Van Blargan, Chairman, Mrs. Roger Page, Mrs. Vernon Neuman, Mrs. W. R. Daniels, Miss Marguerite Dickman, Mrs. Ben Green, Mr. Frank Spragg

Music Committee: Mr. John Walters, Chairman; Mrs. John McNett, Mr. Burdette Vermillion, Mrs. O. E. Fledderjohann, Mrs. William Heinrich

Confirmation Reunion Committee: Mr. Robert Tussing, Chairman; Miss Martha Schaefer, Mr. Carl Rhoda, Mrs. Burdette Vermillion, Mr. Clarence Frey, Sr., Mr. Victor Moser

Program and Speakers Committee: Mrs. Russell Wiessinger, Chairman; Mr. Paul Kreher, Mrs. Inez Herold, Mr. William F. Smith

Improvements (Fix-up) Committee: Mr. Florenz Clausing, Chairman; Mr. Grover Neuman, Mrs. Donald Riner, Mr. William Rummel, Mrs. Robert Tussing, Mrs. Frank Spragg

Publicity Committee: Mr. Loren Van Meter, Chairman; Mr. Charles Naas, Mr. Merle Myers, Mrs. Dorothy Rothe, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hoeper, Mr. Walter King

Finance Committee: Mr. Landis Schmidt, Chairman; Mr. Harold Schaublin, Mr. Robert P. Jones, III

Greetings from the President of The United Church of Christ

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEVENTH FLOOR, 297 PARK AVE., SOUTH
NEW YORK 10, NEW YORK

June 4, 1963

To the Members of the First United Church of Christ
Lima, Ohio

Dear Friends:

On this 100th anniversary of your congregation, I send you Christian greetings in the name of the United Church of Christ. The whole church is stronger because of the fine record which you have forged in Lima. In fact, the United Church of Christ is strong and able to carry out her ministry because of congregations like your own.

Through the years, I have been acquainted with the work of First Church and your pastors, and am aware of the strength of your congregation. Everything that I have seen and heard has impressed me with the vitality of your life.

I am sure that our mutual prayer is that God will continue to use your congregation for His purpose, and that your ministry shall be strong and vital.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion and fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Sincerely

(signed) Ben M. Herbster
President of the United Church of Christ



REV. BEN M. HERBSTER, D.D.
President of the United Church of Christ

Greetings From Our Present Pastor

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Evangelical & Reformed)

WAYNE AND WEST STREETS

LIMA, OHIO

Rev. Richard P. Vitz, Minister

322 West Wayne Street

Dear Friends,

A great honor has come upon us since God has enabled us to come to this milestone to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our Church. As you read through this Anniversary Booklet, you will notice the great faith in the Triune God which our forefathers had who had come to Lima from distant shores. They knew that only as they would seek and worship God could life have its true purpose and meaning.

This faith has been carried through the century to us. May we realize our privilege and responsibility as members of our local congregation. The torch of faith has been handed to us through great sacrifice by those who have worshipped here before. We are linking the past and the future. Let us treasure the faith we have received. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit may we hand to our children and our children's children the spiritual blessings that come only from our Lord.

We are grateful to all who gave of their time and energy, serving on many committees, in order that we might celebrate our Centennial in this excellent way.

It has been a joy to serve you as your pastor. God bless each one of you during this anniversary year and through the years of opportunity and service that await us.

Yours in Christ,

(signed) RICHARD P. VITZ



REV. RICHARD P. VITZ

Our Present Pastor



CONSISTORY --- 1963

First Row, left to right—Harold Schaublin, Elder; Grover Neuman, Trustee; Roger Page, Deacon; Ralph Cole, Deacon; Wayne Bailey, Deacon; Rev. Richard P. Vitz, Pastor; Harold Garmhausen, Deacon; Arnold Patrick, Elder; Walter King, Trustee; Donald Baxter, Sr., Deacon.

Second Row, left to right—Carl Bucher, Deacon; Donald Riner, Deacon; Ray Burkholder, Deacon; James Offenbacher, Deacon; Jack Engle, Deacon; Ralph Scheer, Deacon; Arthur Orchard, Trustee; Eugene Lusk, Deacon; Dr. R. S. Buchanan, Deacon

Third Row, left to right—David Benny, Deacon; William F. Smith, Deacon; Frank Spragg, Elder; Thomas Laut, Trustee; Robert P. Jones, III, Treasurer; Robert Eversman, Elder; Leonard Rothe, Trustee

Note: Mr. Donald Staver, Deacon, was not present at taking of photograph. Mr. Fred Gehm has been appointed to fill vacancy caused by entry of Mr. Jack Engle, Deacon, into the armed forces.

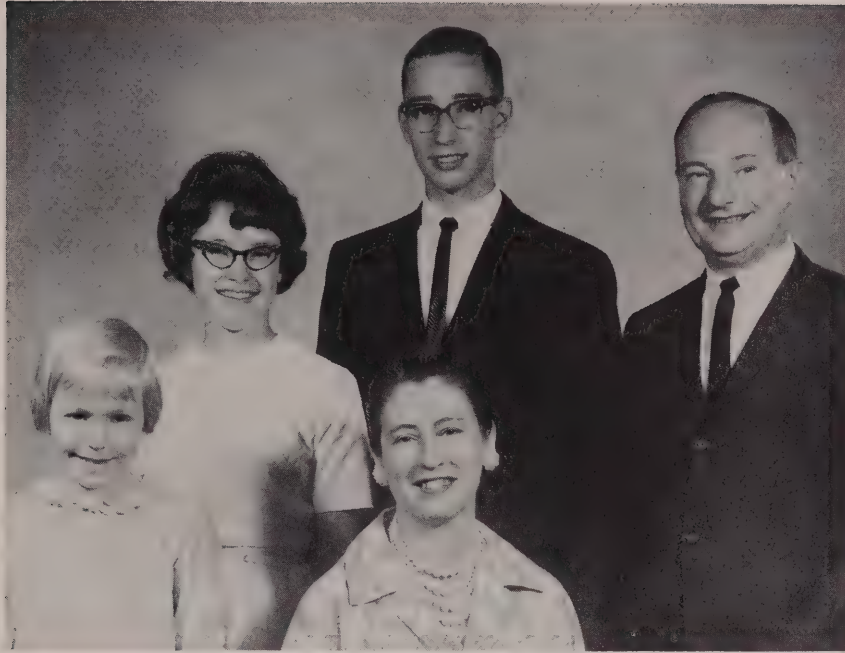
The Consistory --- Governing Body of the Congregation

The Consistory is the governing body of the congregation. The Consistory includes the pastor, four elders, sixteen deacons, five trustees, the treasurer, and the recording secretary. All are elected by the congregation except the recording secretary who is selected by the Consistory.

In 1963, Rev. Richard P. Vitz as pastor is the president of the Consistory; Mr. Robert Eversman is vice-president; and Mr. Donald Baxter, Sr. is recording secretary. Mr. Grover Neuman

serves as chairman of the board of trustees and Mr. Ralph Cole as chairman of the deacons. Mr. Eversman also acts as chairman of the elders.

Although not a member of the consistory, Mrs. Howard L. Saddler serves as church secretary and works closely with the group particularly with the pastor and the treasurer of the congregation, the latter being Mr. Robert P. Jones, III.



Our Pastor and His Family

Left to Right: Barbara Kay Vitz; Marianne Edith Vitz; Mrs. Richard P. Vitz; Robert Charles Vitz; and Rev. Richard P. Vitz

Rev. Richard P. Vitz, our present pastor, is a native of New Bremen, Ohio, the son of Rev. and Mrs. N. E. Vitz. He graduated from Heidelberg College in 1939 and from Eden Theological Seminary in 1942. Ordained on June 28, 1942, he began his ministry with the St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church, Fostoria, Ohio, on July 1, 1942. He has also served congregations in Findlay and Germantown, Ohio, coming to Lima on January 1, 1953.

Rev. Vitz is a member of the Board of Trustees of Heidelberg College and of the Board of the Children's Home, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. He is also serving as a member of the Committee on Union of the Evangelical and Reformed and the Congregational Christian Churches, a member of the nominating committee of the Ohio Council of Churches, three times delegate to the General Synod, a member of Board of Trustees of the United Fund of Lima and the Board of Directors of the Child and Family Service. The pastor is also a member of the Citizens Advisory Board of Lima State Hospital and is a past president of the Allen County Ministerial Association. He is also vice-president of the Northwest Ohio Synod.

Rev. Vitz married the former Mildred E. Bleile of St. Louis,

Missouri, on June 3, 1943. Before her marriage she was employed in secretarial work in her home city. Mrs. Vitz is very active in all of the local women's organizations of the church and is the able director of the Junior Choir. She is also prominently identified with the work of the denomination, serving four years as president of the Women's Guild of Northwest Ohio and having been elected vice-president of the national Women's Guild. She is also a member of the Council for Lay Life and Work of the United Church of Christ. In every respect she has greatly assisted her husband in the furtherance of God's Kingdom.

Rev. and Mrs. Vitz have three children: Robert Charles Vitz age 18 years; Marianne Edith Vitz, age 14 years; and Barbara Kay Vitz, age 7 years. Robert Charles Vitz graduated from Lima Senior High School in June of 1963 and plans to enter Heidelberg College this autumn.

During a pastorate of almost eleven years at First United Church of Christ (Evangelical and Reformed), of Lima, Ohio, Rev. Richard P. Vitz, together with his wife and children, have won the hearts of the congregation by their untiring devotion to the work of the Almighty God.

Rev. Tillman W. Hoernemann, D.D., is the oldest living former pastor of our church and also has the distinction of serving the longest period of time in the history of the church. He was graduated from the Mission House College at Plymouth, Wisconsin in 1909 and from the Seminary there in 1912. He began his active ministry in June, 1912, at the Trinity Reformed Church in Wabasha, Minnesota. Rev. Hoernemann became pastor of our Lima church on November 1, 1914. His pastorate marked a transition period in which English finally supplanted German as the dominant language used in church services and also witnessed the difficult years of World War I. During his pastorate here, many improvements took place including the erection of a new parsonage and the installation of a new organ. He terminated his pastorate on December 1, 1929, and accepted a call to the First Reformed Church of New Philadelphia, Ohio. He remained as pastor of the New Philadelphia church until his recent retirement. When he retired on February 1, 1963, he had a record of more than fifty years as a minister, two years having been served at Wabasha, fifteen years at Lima, and thirty-three years at New Philadelphia.

Rev. Hoernemann was married on July 24, 1912, to Bertha Heusser and two sons, Paul and Franklin, were born in Lima. Paul Hoernemann is now assistant to the president of Heidelberg College and his brother Franklin is general secretary of the Metropolitan Area Y.M.C.A. in Dayton, Ohio. In addition to their two sons, the Hoernemanns also took upon themselves the responsibility of raising a nephew and a niece, Calvin and Esther Hoernemann, after the untimely death of their parents, Rev. and Mrs. F. W. Hoernemann, of Archbold, Ohio. Calvin is now an engineer in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Esther is the wife of Rev. L. W. McIntire of Logan, Ohio. Mrs. Tillman W. Hoernemann, well remembered in the Lima church, was a member of the convening committee for the merger of the Women's Guild of the Evangelical and Reformed denomination in the Ohio Valley Regional. She has been president of the Ohio Valley Regional Women's Guild and has served as delegate to several quadrennial meetings of the General Synod.

Rev. Hoernemann's record of service to his community and denomination is an imposing one. He served as delegate to the General Synod twelve times and was vice-president and member of the Executive Committee of the Reformed Church in the General Synod. He has served as president of the Central Synod and of the Ohio Synod, as stated Clerk of the Minnesota Classis and as president of the West Ohio Classis. He was also president of the Central Publishing House and has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Heidelberg College. He served as president of the first Council of Social Agencies (Community Fund) in Lima. He was also president of the Lima Ministerial Association and of the New Philadelphia Ministerial Association.

The Dean of Our Living Former Pastors



REV. TILLMAN W. HOERNEMANN, D.D.

(1914-1929)

OUR TENTH PASTOR

Living Former Pastor

Rev. Reuben J. Schroer, D.D., also a former pastor of our church, is a native of New Knoxville, Ohio, graduating from Mission House College, Plymouth, Wisconsin in 1925 and from Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey in 1928. He was ordained into the Christian ministry upon his graduation from seminary and served the First E. and R. Church at Goshen, Indiana for two years, beginning his pastorate in our Lima church on May 1, 1930. His pastorate extending over the difficult depression years saw our church steadily march forward. After ending his pastorate here on December 31, 1938, Rev. Schroer accepted a call to the First E. and R. Church at Akron, Ohio, where he has served as pastor for twenty-five years. During his Akron pastorate, the congregation has re-located and erected a beautiful and spacious church and educational building constructed at a cost of almost one million dollars.

Rev. Reuben J. Schroer is a present a member of the Board of Trustees of The United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and a member of the Committee of Fifty which had the responsibility of organizing the State of Ohio into conferences and associations of the United Church. For four years Rev. Schroer served as President of the Northeast Ohio Synod and has been President of the Akron Ministerial Association. For twenty-two years he was a member of the Committee on Evangelism of the E. and R. Church and has at times been a member of the General Council of this body.

Rev. Schroer is married to the former Miss Hilda Holtkamp, also a New Knoxville native. Mrs. Schroer was noted for her active work in the Lima church and has served as a member of the National Board of the Women's Guild of the E. and R. Church. She has devoted much time in giving leadership to conferences, synods, and related meetings. Rev. and Mrs. Schroer have two children, Hale and Corrine. Hale graduated from Union Theological Seminary in 1957, served more than five years in a new mission church which he organized in Warren, Ohio, and recently became pastor of the Samuel's United Church of Christ at Clayton, Missouri. He is married to Miss Ann Taylor of New Hampshire and they have two children, Mark and Stephen. Corrine is now Mrs. Howard Hanna, and her husband is a United States Highway Engineer at Park Forest, Illinois.

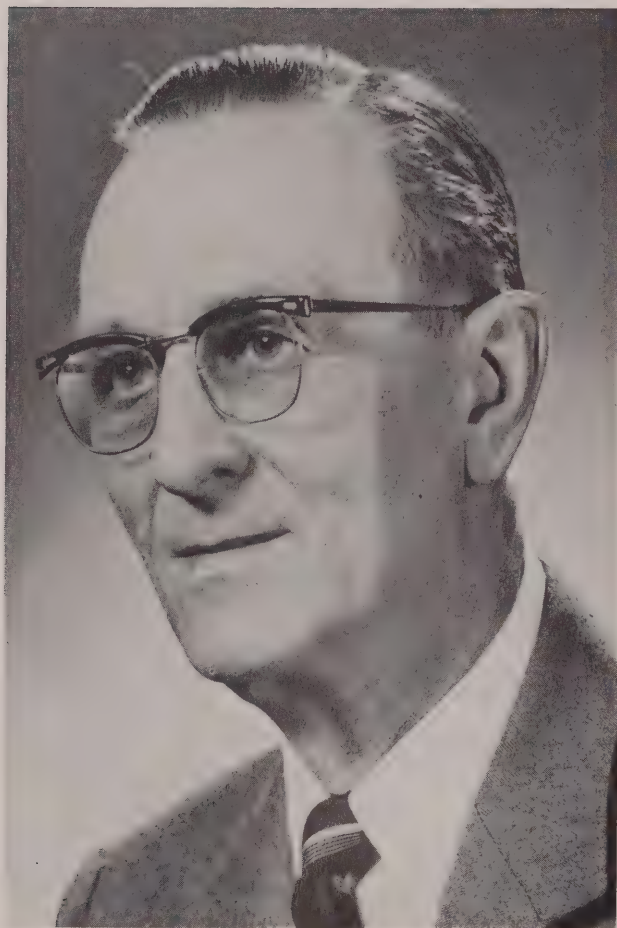


REV. REUBEN J. SCHROER, D.D.

(1930-1938)

OUR ELEVENTH PASTOR

Living Former Pastor



REV. PAUL H. GRAESER

(1939-1952)

OUR TWELFTH PASTOR

Rev. Paul H. Graeser, twelfth pastor of our church, was born at St. Louis, Missouri on October 6, 1896, the son of Rev. and Mrs. C. F. W. Graeser. His father was a Reformed Church minister later serving in Winnipeg, Manitoba and Edmonton, Alberta. Rev. Paul H. Graeser graduated from the Mission House Seminary, Plymouth, Wisconsin, in 1923, was ordained on July 8th of that year at Wausau, Wisconsin, and commenced his pastorate in the latter place on the same date, remaining there until 1935.

After serving the Salem Evangelical and Reformed Church at Ft. Wayne, Indiana, from February 3, 1935, to April 9, 1939, he accepted a call to our church, beginning his pastorate on April 16, 1939.

During his stay in Lima, he witnessed the final termination of German language services in our church and the program of the congregation continued to advance even though the shadow of World War II brought hardship to many. A beautiful enlarged basement was constructed in the Sunday School Annex during his term.

After serving the Lima congregation for more than thirteen years, Rev. Graeser left on August 15, 1952, to serve the E. and R. Church at Harrison Township, Van Wert County, Ohio, where he was pastor until August 15, 1960.

Following a leave of absence from the ministry granted at his request because of illness, Rev. Graeser is reentering the active ministry in October, 1963, at Lake Helen, Florida where he has a "Pastor Emeritus" rating with the Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.

Rev. Paul H. Graeser married Miss Ruth M. Sager at Kaukauna, Wisconsin, on September 15, 1923, and they have three children: Robert Graeser of Mundelin, Illinois; Mrs. Janice R. Mitchell of Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Richard D. Graeser of Huntsville, Alabama.

While serving in Lima, Rev. Graeser had a wide acquaintance in the community and generously contributed his time in assisting many worthwhile civic and humanitarian organizations of the area. A past president of the Allen County Ministerial Association, he was also prominently identified with denominational activities having served as delegate to the synod. He has the distinction of officiating as minister of our congregation longer than any other pastor with the sole exception of Rev. Tillman W. Hoernemann.

Last Surviving Charter Members



Frau Rosa Schnug



Frau Peter Badertscher



Frau Katharina Schnug



Christian Rothe
Glieb des ersten Kirchenrats

"GRUNDER GLIEDER" (CHARTER MEMBERS) AS PORTRAYED IN GOLDEN JUBILEE SOUVENIR BOOKLET (1915)

Pictured here is the reproduction of a page from the Golden Jubilee Souvenir booklet published in September, 1915, disclosing portraits of four charter members ("grunderglieder") living at that time. Since all are now deceased, it is of interest to determine the identity of the last surviving charter member.

From official church records available, it is believed that Mrs. Rosa Schnug (Mrs. Rosa Snook) was the last surviving charter member who answered the call of our church bell summoning her "to an even higher place." She passed away on May 23, 1922, at the age of 79 years, after the others had previously departed. Mrs. Rosa Snook was a member of the first choir which sang to the glory of God even before our church was organized.

Mrs. Lizzie Naas Badertscher, wife of Peter Badertscher, another member of the first choir, died on March 31, 1918, just one day after the passing of her husband who, although not pictured

in the booklet, had also been a charter member and an original choir member.

Mrs. Katharina Schnug (Mrs. Anna Catherine Snook) passed away on September 27, 1918. She was also a member of the first choir and was the mother of Miss Nettie Snook, former Superintendent of the Children's Department of the Sunday School.

Mr. Christian Rothe, the last surviving member of the first consistory ("Glieb des ersten Kirchenrats"), died on October 1, 1920 at the age of 93 years.

*"SEI GETRAU BIS IN DEN TOD, SO WILL ICH DIR
DIE KRONE DES LEBENS GEBEN"*

—Rev. 2:10

*("Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a
crown of life")*

—Rev. 2:10



Here pictured is the site of the actual organization of DIE DEUTSCHE EVANGELISCHE REFORMIERTE GEMEINDE ZU LIMA, ALLEN CO., OHIO — The German Evangelical Reformed Congregation of Lima, Ohio.

Formerly used as a schoolhouse, it was owned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the predecessor of the present Zion Lutheran Church, and was located on the west side of North Union Street about 125 feet north of East High Street — directly across the street from the present Barr Hotel.

OUR BIRTHPLACE
SEPTEMBER 5, 1863

History of The First United Church of Christ

(EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED)
OF LIMA, OHIO

PRE-ORGANIZATION DAYS

RETRACING A CENTURY-OLD TRAIL

Our church now stands upon the mountain top of one hundred years of inspirational worship and service, looking proudly back upon an exciting trail of endless labor and sacrifice — a trail marked by undisputed accomplishments in the service of the King of Kings.

It is difficult if not impossible to completely record on paper God's ministry and work in the hearts of men and women. Written documents alone do not fully portray the great love and devotion of the sturdy pioneers who founded this congregation, and the unswerving loyalty of those who have carried it past the milestones of the century. We know, however, that without such love and devotion experienced in the hearts of our ancestors

and without the loyalty of those who followed there would be no church here today and no occasion for a centennial.

With this in mind, let us lift the curtain of the past and with reverence peer down the long trail that leads from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present.

THE LONGING FOR GERMAN WORSHIP SERVICES

Shortly after 1850 a number of German families who had settled in the Lima area fervently longed to have religious services conducted in their native tongue. Reformed, Lutheran and Evangelical men and women would gather in various homes and halls to hear itinerant ministers invited to preach. Rev. J. Klinger was one of the early Reformed clergymen who occasionally came to Lima about 1853.



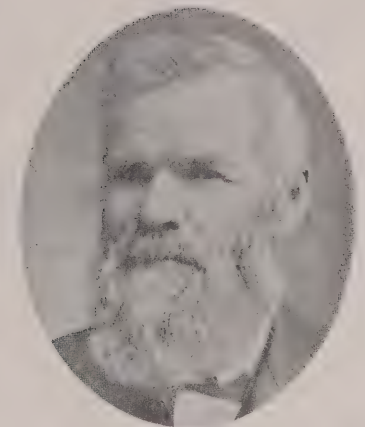
REV. PETER GREDING, D.D.

(1859-1863)

Our FounderDEUTSCHE EVANGELISCHE
REFORMIERTE KIRCHE

—OUR FIRST BUILDING

1866



REV. GEORGE RETTIG

(1863-1865)

Our First Pastor

REV. PETER GREDING—FOUNDER OF OUR CHURCH

About the year 1859, Rev. Peter Greding, D.D. a Reformed minister residing at Riley Creek near Bluffton, Ohio, coming to this city on horseback, began to make regular visits to serve the German people of Lima. He took a keen interest in serving the needs of this group many of whom had recently arrived from the Fatherland. The new leader stressed the importance of formal organization and identification with a recognized church body. Often meetings were held at Sanford Hall, Market and Union Streets.

CHOIR ORGANIZED PRIOR TO CHURCH

One of the most amazing things we note when we examine the beginning of the long trail is that there was a choir organized before the church itself was formed.

Through the untiring efforts of Rev. Greding, a choir met on Saturday evenings to rehearse the anthem for the coming Lord's Day. This first choir was composed of the following: Carl Amelung, Peter Schnug, Rosa Schnug, Catherine Humerich Schnug, Maria Zullinger, Fanny Zullinger, Lizzie Naas Badertscher, Emma Hoffman, Philip Keil, and Peter Badertscher.

Rev. Peter Greding may thus be clearly regarded as the founder of our church. In addition to serving as pastor to several surrounding congregations, he was also a professor and an editor. He edited the German lesson materials for the Sunday Schools of the Reformed Church in the United States for about twenty years. He died on April 28, 1910, at the age of 73 years and

funeral services were held in our local church with burial at Bluffton. Several of Rev. Greding's descendents have contributed much to the Lima Church.

THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL REFORMED
CONGREGATION ORGANIZED—

REV. GEORGE RETTIG OUR FIRST PASTOR

On September 5, 1863, as dusk was descending upon the little town of Lima, then a community of about three thousand inhabitants, the shrill whistle of a train on the Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne and Chicago Railroad could be heard in the distance while close at hand the stirring refrain "We Are Tenting Tonight On The Old Camp Ground" broke the stillness of an otherwise quiet night. The darkest days of the Civil War were at hand. Two months before, the terrible battle of Gettysburg had been fought in the shadow of the beautiful mountains of Pennsylvania and there was talk of the dedication of a national cemetery at the same place in a few weeks.

At the Lutheran Meeting House owned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church located on the west side of North Union Street a short distance north of East High Street, unusual activity became evident. The little building surrounded by a picket fence had formerly been used as a school house but now belonged to the predecessor of the Zion Lutheran Church. After a number of German speaking people had entered the structure, the sound of a gavel brought the assembly to attention. A bearded minister

recently from Bucyrus, Ohio, Rev. George Rettig, acted as clerk and Mr. Karl Lang presided. In a few moments after prayer and some discussion, the group took a bold step forward by organizing themselves under the chosen name "THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL REFORMED CONGREGATION OF LIMA, OHIO."

The members of the first consistory ("kirchenrat") were thereupon elected and comprised the following:

ELDERS: Carl Amelung for two years; J. J. Hautzer for one year.

DEACONS: Christian Rothe for two years; August Gebhardt for one year.

TRUSTEES: H. Betz for three years; William Schnug for two years; M. Herold for one year.

A constitution consisting of four articles was then adopted. As the men and women left the church that night, a sense of joy and praise filled their hearts, and the last words of the Lord's Prayer led by Rev. Rettig still rang in their ears:

"Denn dein ist das Reich and die Kraft und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit. Amen".

("For thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.")

The German speaking people now had a church of their very own and also a pastor. The original record of organization written in both German and English by the first regular pastor, Rev. George Rettig, is the earliest archive of our church known to be still in existence. In passing, it is interesting to point out that the name "The German Evangelical Reformed Congregation of Lima, Ohio" continued to be the legal name of our church for almost a century. Although in recent times known informally by other designation, the official name was not changed until March 13, 1963, when the name "The First United Church of Christ (Evangelical and Reformed) of Lima, Ohio," was registered in the office of the Secretary of State at Columbus, Ohio. It is also noteworthy to observe that the last surviving member of the original consistory was Christian Rothe who passed away on October 1, 1920, at the age of 93 years.

ENROLLMENT AS MISSION CHURCH— THE FIRST CATECHETICAL CLASS

Rev. Rettig lost no time in having the new congregation enrolled as a Home Mission church of the Reformed Church in the United States and it is known that the struggling church group received at least \$1200 from the board during the early years. It must be mentioned, however, that several people did not favor the name "Reformed" and severed their connection with the organization.

One of the most remarkable things accomplished by the first pastor was the fact that a large class was confirmed by him four months after the organization of the church which would lead us to believe that instruction of the catechumens had commenced prior to the act of formation. One of the prized possessions of our church is a large pulpit Bible upon the flyleaf of which is written in the German language the following:

"This Bible was presented as a gift to the Evangelical Reformed Congregation in Lima, O. on the day of confirmation January 9, 1864 by the following:

Lizzy Amelung	Emil Huffman
Agnes Greimer	Jacob Shick
Mary Heart	Phil Keil
Mary Palm	L. L. Rummel
Lizzy Bohrer	J. Runkelgam
Christ Neibrecht	C. E. Naas
Henry Neibrecht	Charl. Trempert
Emil Greimer	Mary Lubringer
Cath. Neibrecht	Charl. Derne
Elisabeth Neibrecht	L. Betz
Cath. Andre	Ad. Kern
Cath. Weber	Mary Kusmaul
Christ Fossler	Mary Reh
Wm. Schnug	Mary Zimmerman
John Heitz	Kaspar Purtscher
Fred Voe	H. Betz
Val Hautzer	Fred Andre

EARLIEST BAPTISM AND DEATH RECORDS

The oldest church records in existence disclose that the following persons were included in those baptized by Rev. George Rettig following organization of the Church on September 5, 1863:

Namen (Name)	Geboren (Born)	Getauft (Baptized)
Allis Marie Purtscher	July 14, 1862	Sept. 9, 1863
Jacob Lohrer	Aug. 21, 1863	Sept. 15, 1863
Maria Katherine Herold	Aug. 20, 1863	Sept. 19, 1863
Geo. Washington Ringel	Sept. 6, 1855	Sept. 27, 1863
Maria Elizabeth Gebhart	Aug. 24, 1863	Sept. 27, 1863
John Wm. Edward Rettig	Aug. 12, 1863	Sept. 24, 1863
Anna Marie Trempert	June 20, 1863	Nov. 8, 1863
Louisa Zimmerman	Nov. 6, 1863	Dec. 10, 1863

The infant listed above under the name of John Wm. Edward Rettig, was the son of Rev. George Rettig and his wife, Catherine Rettig. On another page of the register appears a list of persons baptised even before formal organization of the congregation including Maria Katharina Herold, Matilda Maria Hoffman, Johannes Miller, and Maria Emma Rothe.



REV. WILLIAM H. FENNEMAN
(1865-1869)

Our Second Pastor



CORNERSTONE OF FIRST BUILDING
LAID AUGUST 26, 1866



REV. CASPAR PLUSS
(1869-1873)

Our Third Pastor

Burial records in existence disclose that the first persons for whom it is noted that funeral services were held were John I Baeker who died on September 11, 1863 at the age of 47 years and 7 months and Anna Marie Baeker who passed away on September 18, 1863 at the age of 39 years. There is also one entry of a deceased person who was buried a short time prior to the formation of the church: Dorothea Kemmer who died on August 28, 1863, at the age of 69 years and 11 months.

BUILDING SITE PURCHASED—

REV. RETTIG RESIGNS

The new congregation lost little time in acquiring a site for a building in which they could worship. On February 11, 1864 two lots on the northwest corner of Wayne and West Streets were purchased from Hudson Watt for the sum of \$400. This land was destined to become the location of both the original structure and of the present church edifice.

Rev. Rettig resigned in the early part of 1865. He died on March 2, 1911 at the age of 84 years, at Monticello, Iowa. It is known that he had been born in Baden, Germany, on January 11, 1827, came to America at the age of sixteen and was ordained in 1849. After serving the Lima church he went to Fostoria, Ohio, and thence to Iowa, where he became the head of the newly form-

ed Ursinus Classis of the Reformed Church. He is said to have educated thirteen young men for the ministry at his own expense.

OUR SECOND PASTOR REV. WILLIAM H. FENNEMAN

FIRST BUILDING ERECTED

Rev. William H. Fenneman became our second minister serving from 1865 to 1869. Plans for the new building were completed and on August 26, 1866, the cornerstone of the first building was laid with impressive ceremonies. The Lima Democrat for August 29, 1866 contains a brief account of the event:

"On Sunday afternoon last in the presence of a large number of our citizens, the cornerstone of the German Reformed Church of Lima, was laid. The services on the occasion were of the most solemn and imposing character and very appropriate. Discourses were delivered in both the German and English languages."

The original subscription list for the first building, pictured elsewhere in this booklet, is also a precious archive of our church. It is contained in a small memorandum book dated March, 1866, and reveals that eighteen families pledged \$900 to erect the sanctuary and left the rest to faith. The entire cost of the first church building was \$3000.

OUR MODEST FIRST CHURCH BUILDING A STRUCTURE OF SIMPLICITY

Dedicated on May 10, 1867, the rectangular brick structure, measuring only 36 feet by 50 feet, had a seating capacity of about two hundred people or more. There are some members yet living who can recall this original building which was to serve our congregation for twenty-one years. Notes written in longhand by the late beloved Dr. Frederick Stueber, long time consistory member, provide much information concerning the description of the 1866 edifice and the unpretentious manner in which it was furnished.

One aisle was on each side of the little auditorium with a broad section of pews in the center. Very short pews were placed on the outside of the aisles extending to the walls. No tall stained glass windows were in this sanctuary — only plain windows were installed. There were no carpets on the floor and crude benches served as pews. Two common wood burning stoves provided the heat for the church and it was often impossible to maintain an even temperature throughout the building. In the early days chandeliers with oil lamps were suspended from the ceiling.

At first it was customary for the men to sit on the east side of the church and the women to sit on the west side. Later, however, the families would be grouped together. Occasionally, one could see one of the tired shopmen and farmers nod and then the good wife would nudge him and help him to keep awake.

KLINGELBEUTELS — TUNING FORKS — MELODEONS

In the early decades collection plates were not used but in their place were "Klingelbeutels" or "Gingle-bags." These were black velvet bags or pouches attached to a stick about eight feet long. They would be extended by the deacons in front of the people seated in the pews. It is recalled that if the deacons would observe some person falling asleep during church service, the instruments were also used at times to tap the offender lightly on the head in order to awaken him.

The pulpit furniture was very ordinary and there were no musical instruments at first to aid worship except on very special occasions when a reed organ would be rented temporarily. Mr. Jacob Moser who officiated as choir director for more than a quarter of a century would use a tuning fork similar to one used by Rev. Peter Greding in pre-organization days. One of the tuning forks actually used by Mr. Moser is pictured in this booklet. Many times a beautiful rosewood melodeon owned by Mrs. Anna Herold Zimmerman and Mrs. Margaret Herold Sullivan would be taken back and forth to the German Reformed Church and used for services. The choir was originally divided into sections with respect to the men and the women in much the same way that the congregation was placed.

Confirmation services were lengthy in that original building, sometimes beginning about 9:00 a.m. and lasting until 1:00 p.m. and the pupils were required to know every answer in the Heidelberg Catechism. It is also interesting to point out that at one time it was the custom during funeral services held in the church for men in mourning to keep their hats on during the ceremonies.

OFF STREET PARKING OBSERVED IN THE OLD DAYS

Off street parking was utilized in the early days of our church and in fact extended up to a late period. Horses and buggies were left in the space at the rear of the church and hitching posts were in evidence there as well as along West Street alley which was undeveloped in the first years of the church. If children did not behave in church services, the mothers would take them out and sit in the buggies while the rest of the family worshipped inside. When years later it was proposed to build an addition to the rear of the church, one of the objections was that it would take away the place to tie their horses and carriages.

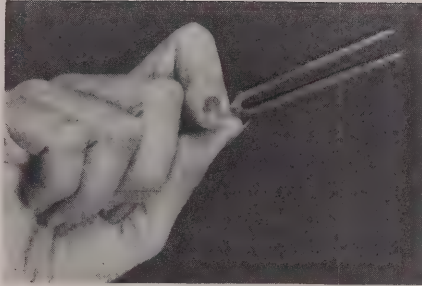
In March, 1869, Rev. William H. Fenneman ended his pastorate. During his term of service, the church attained a membership of 85 persons. Rev. Fenneman also is remembered for his part in organizing the Ladies Aid Society which was formed on January 3, 1867. He died in 1903, at Millville, Ohio, and was buried at Indianapolis, Indiana.

REV. CASPAR PLUESS THIRD PASTOR

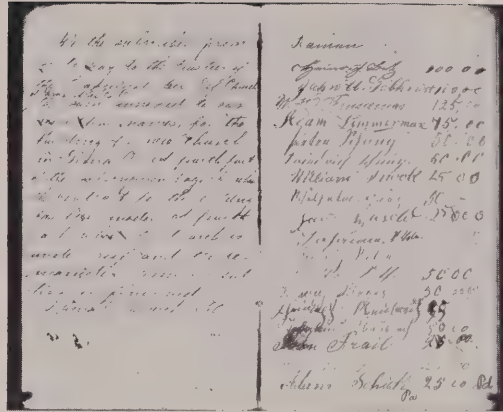
Rev. Caspar Pluess of Cairo, Ohio, became the third shepherd of the flock, commencing his pastorate about April, 1869. He would have to travel six miles from his home to our church over bad roads in order to preach. Sometimes in the winter he would come by sled and occasionally the snow would be melted by rain and the horses would scarcely pull his conveyance on the return trip.

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVE IN EARLY DAYS ALSO

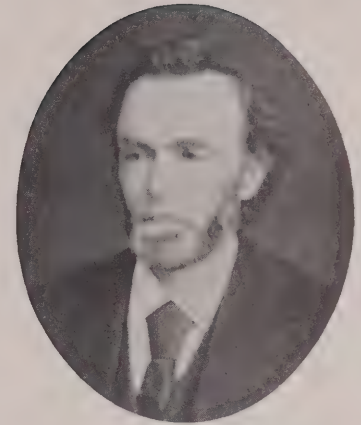
On August 7, 1873 the German Reformed Church was host to a district Sunday School festival attended by the six German Sunday schools of Allen County and by several English schools. Records recently found indicate that about one thousand persons paraded to the old fair grounds on Bellefontaine Avenue and there enjoyed a picnic returning downtown for a concert at the city hall which was then located on the southwest corner of Main and High Streets. This event is significant to our church because it demonstrates that even as early as 1873 our Sunday School was flourishing under the able leadership of its Superin-



TUNING FORK USED IN EARLY DAYS
BY JACOB MOSER, CHOIR DIRECTOR



ORIGINAL SUBSCRIPTION LIST FOR
FIRST BUILDING (1866)



REV. C. F. WALDECKER
(1873-1877)

Our Fourth Pastor

The original subscription list is herewith pictured. The pledge was written in German and English and read as follows:

*"We, the subscribers, promise to pay to the Trustees
of the Evangelical Ger. Ref. Church of Lima, Allen
County, Ohio, the sum annexed to our respective names,*

*for the building of a new church in Lima, Ohio. A
fourth part of the subscription payable when the con-
tract for the building has been made. A fourth part when
the church is under roof and the remainder when the
building is finished.*

Lima, Ohio

March 1866

Heinrich Betz	\$100.00	Friedrich Schnug	50.00	Friedrich Rothe	25.00	Johannes Neubrecht	50.00
John A. Gebhardt	100.00	William Snook	25.00	Christian Rothe	50.00	John Frail	25.00
Rev. W. H. Fenneman	125.00	Wilhelm Schnug	50.00	Heinrich Pfleger	50.00	George F. Getz	25.00
Adam Zimmerman	75.00	Fred Herold	25.00	C. Neubrecht	25.00	Adam Schick	25.00
Peter Schnug	50.00	Johannes Weber	25.00				

tendent, Mr. Jacob Moser. This festival held during the pastorate of Rev. Pluess was also featured in a special article appearing in one of the periodicals of the Reformed Church of the United States wherein Rev. J. Klinger who had been one of the first German speaking ministers to visit Lima in pre-organization times gave a graphic description of the entire event concluding his account as follows:

"Taken as a whole, it was the grandest Sabbath school festival we ever witnessed, its success evidently attributable to the untiring exertions of Mr. Moser, the superintendent, and his co-workers in the school. We were very much gratified that where twenty years ago we preached to a few scattering Germans only occasionally, now we have a German congregation able to make such a display . . . May the Lord bless the Lima Sabbath school and congregation!"

J. Klinger

Rev. Caspar Pluess relinquished his post in the latter part of 1873. It is interesting to note that at the observance of the eightieth anniversary of our church in 1943 the oldest catechumen then living was Mrs. Cassie Dibling confirmed by Rev. Pluess in 1869. Rev. Pluess died on February 28, 1878, at Crothersville, Indiana, after a prolonged illness.

REV. C. F. WALDECKER FOURTH PASTOR

CHURCH BECOMES SELF-SUPPORTING—PARSONAGE ERECTED

Rev. C. F. Waldecker succeeded Rev. Pluess in December, 1873, transferring from the Presbyterian Church to the Reformed Church. Up to 1874 the local body had been a mission church but became self-supporting during Rev. Waldecker's pastorate. An interesting yet pathetic account appears in the church records of the untimely death of the pastor's four year old son, Arthur Waldecker who died on February 2, 1875.

The church promptly purchased a lot in the new Woodlawn Cemetery recently opened for the use of ministers who might experience similar sad experiences during their pastorate here and who had no other place of burial. A marker for little Arthur's grave still stands on this lot which the church still owns and a beautiful poetic tribute also appears in Rev. Waldecker's handwriting in the official records of the church.

In 1876 the first parsonage was erected on the ground west of the original church building. This was a frame dwelling which served the ministers of the congregation until 1921 when it was replaced by the present brick structure.

Rev. C. F. Waldecker resigned in October, 1877, and later reentered the Presbyterian Church at Stockton, California in 1886.

He died on April 28, 1899 at Shelbyville, Indiana, where he was pastor of the German Presbyterian Church in that city.

REV. JOHN H. STEPLER, D.D. FIFTH PASTOR

THE CHURCH ADVANCES — INCORPORATES

Rev. John H. Stepler, D.D. who usually signed his name simply "J. H. Stepler", was summoned to become the next pastor of the German Reformed Church, beginning his ministry here in March, 1878, at the age of 37 years. By now the little church at West and Wayne had become firmly intrenched in the spiritual life of the community. The secular work entitled "Historical Atlas of Allen County" by R. H. Harrison published in 1880 contains a vivid description of our church — a description mixed with words of prophecy:

"Aside from a valuable church property, unencumbered by any debt, this congregation must have a bright future before it. It has a flourishing Sunday School and is the only German congregation in the city. Among the goodly number of active and devoted members there are two men worthy of special mention for their work in the church and Sabbath school, Messrs. J. Moser and E. Cantieny. These, with other young and active members have pushed what was for years a struggling mission to a prosperous success among our worthy German fellow-citizens."

Young people's activities were given impetus in September, 1879, when Rev. Stepler organized "Der Jugend-Verein," later to be known as the Young Peoples Society, Christian Endeavor, and finally as the Youth Fellowship.

On April 19, 1880, articles of incorporation were filed in the office of the Secretary of State under the same name theretofore used, "THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL REFORMED CONGREGATION OF LIMA, OHIO". The incorporators were J. A. Walther, William Zeits, and Peter Badertscher who comprised the board of trustees.

On December 1, 1882, certain individuals who preferred to have services conducted in the English language founded the English Reformed Church. This congregation erected a structure on South Main Street adjacent to the Ottawa River and in 1894 became known as the Calvary Reformed Church on East High Street and Cemetery Street (North Park Ave.,) later moving successively to the one hundred block of West Wayne Street and finally to Richie Avenue.

SECOND CHURCH BUILDING CONSTRUCTED

On June 13, 1886 the German Reformed Church realizing that the little rectangular structure erected in 1866 was no longer



A TYPICAL EARLY CHURCH FAMILY

— THE JACOB MOSER FAMILY

(PHOTO TAKEN ABOUT 1875)

Left to Right: Albert Moser, Bertha Moser, Elizabeth Neunschwander Moser, (Mrs. Jacob Moser), Emma Moser, Jacob Moser, and Calvin Moser.

Many early church families with relentless zeal helped to direct the destiny of our church. The Jacob Moser family was a representative pioneer family group. Prior to coming to Lima about 1871, Jacob Moser was postmaster at Bluffton, Ohio, and was instrumental in naming that village. He served as Sunday School superintendent of our church in 1873, and for many years thereafter. For more than a quarter of a century he was our choir director, often using at first a tuning fork pictured elsewhere. He was a member of the Consistory for a long period of time and served on the 1887 building committee. He had been born in Switzerland on April 13, 1835, and died at Lima on April 25, 1910.

The other members of the family include his wife, Elizabeth Neunschwander Moser who died on November 3, 1928 — the last survivor of the family. Albert Moser became a prominent physician and for some time served in the Far East as an army surgeon, passing away in 1903. Calvin Moser became a funeral director and businessman; he died in 1893. Bertha Moser, who occasionally served as organist, married W. H. Deakin and died in 1913. Emma Moser served as church organist and choir directress for many years, married Dr. Frederick G. Stueber, and on October 11, 1890, was instrumental in organizing the King's Daughters Society. She passed away in 1923.



MELODEON USED IN FIRST BUILDING

Pictured here is the beautiful melodeon formerly owned by Anna Herold Zimmerman and Margaret Herold Sullivan which had been loaned to the church for use in the first building. Made of rosewood, it measures 23 inches by 47 inches and on October 17, 1955 was presented by Mrs. A. N. Bruzelius to the Allen County Museum where it is on permanent display.

The placard identifying the instrument reads as follows:

JEWETT AND GOODMAN MELODEON

Bought in Lima for Margaret and Anna Herold about 1862. Hauled back and forth to the German Reformed Church from the home of Lewis and Anna (Herold) Zimmerman for use in services.

—From Mrs. A. N. Bruzelius

adequate to serve the needs of the growing congregation, started subscriptions for a new church building. The membership was now over 300 and plans were formulated for a larger edifice to be erected on the site of the original building. The building committee consisted of Jacob Moser, L. Koch, J. Schlosser, William Zeits, J. Zullinger, George Klein, and Rev. J. H. Stepler. Detailed minutes of the proceedings were kept by the pastor. J. A. Chapin was selected as architect and the firm of J. Mowen and Sons was given the general contract.

On May 30, 1887, the cornerstone was laid according to rigid specifications. Rev. Peter Greding, our founder, addressed the assembled group in German and Judge C. M. Hughes made appropriate remarks in English. This corner-stone engraved "EV-ANGELISCHE REFORMIERTE KIRCHE A.D. 1887" may be seen at the southeast corner of the second building with the original 1866 cornerstone rebuilt into the structure a short distance to the north.

During the year 1887, the construction proceeded at a rapid pace although it was not completed according to the original schedule. Many prominent citizens of Lima and organizations not connected with the church contributed to the cost of the project which was \$14,000. A splendid example of the finest Gothic architecture rose on the original church site with a majestic steeple 135 feet in height pointing skyward. A great bell with a stirring inscription was placed in the tower proclaiming to all the world,

*"MEIN PLATZ IST HOCH-DOCH HOEHER NOCH
RUF ICH DIE LEUTE DURCH MEIN GELAUTES"
"MY PLACE IS HIGH—BUT TO AN EVEN HIGHER
PLACE DO I CALL THE PEOPLE THROUGH THE
SOUND OF MY BELL"*

At last the new church building was finished. On January 8, 1888, formal dedicatory services were conducted in German and English. Rev. Peter Greding, our founder, and several pastors from out of the city officiated for special programs given at morning, afternoon, and evening services. Musical numbers were rendered by our church choir and by the "Maenner Chor"—a local German singing society in which many of our members participated. Great crowds joined in the observance as was mentioned briefly in The Lima Courier of January 11, 1888:

*"Die Kirche war ganz angefuellt"
("The church was entirely filled")*

On October 14, 1888, Rev. John H. Stepler brought his pastorate to a close, completing a period of ten and a half years of service. He became minister of a Cleveland church for twenty-six years, passing away on December 28, 1928, at the age of eighty-eight years.

REV. CHRISTIAN BAUM

CHURCH CONTINUES TO GROW PIPE ORGAN INSTALLED

Rev. Christian Baum began his pastorate on December 23, 1888. The membership continued to grow in number and the church debt was liquidated. Improvements were made to the parsonage and on April 5, 1891, a pipe organ was installed. Opinions differed as to where it should be located, but it was finally determined to place it directly back of the pulpit. In 1891, the church deeded eight feet off of the corner lot to the City of Lima for street and alley purposes and the West Street alley adjacent to the church was finally improved.

On August 26, 1894, Rev. Baum preached in German at the dedication of the new church at New Knoxville, Ohio. The choir of our church also accompanied him in a body and participated in the service. Rev. Baum's resignation was accepted on February 6, 1898 and he left on April 3, 1898, to assume a pastorate in Detroit. In 1930 he returned to Lima and died on August 16th of that year at the age of 86 years.

REV. PAUL H. LAND

ENGLISH SERVICES INTRODUCED

On June 18, 1898, a call was extended to Rev. Paul H. Land and after his election the new minister began his pastorate in July, 1898. Extensive interior improvements were made to the church building in 1899 and in 1901 steam heating equipment was installed at a cost of \$730.00.

During Rev. Land's tenure, a definite period of transition was marked in which the language question became acute. A number of members felt that services should not be entirely conducted in German but that English should also be used. The consistory finally agreed that English services might be introduced if the young people would take quarterly envelopes and raise a substantial amount of the current expenses. With great zeal the young folks undertook this task and in 1900 English services became a reality. It was not unusual to have two hundred young people at the Sunday evening services conducted in the English language.

Rev. Land also initiated the "Missionsfeste" and endeavored to make the congregation more mission minded. His effort met with great success and on November 7, 1904, the Women's Missionary Society was organized — a group which in the years following has undertaken many worthwhile mission projects.

Our church was also beginning to assume great importance in the denomination. From September 19th to September 23, 1900, the Central Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States convened here. Included among the pastors participating in



REV JOHN H. STEPLER
(1878-1888)
Our Fifth Pastor



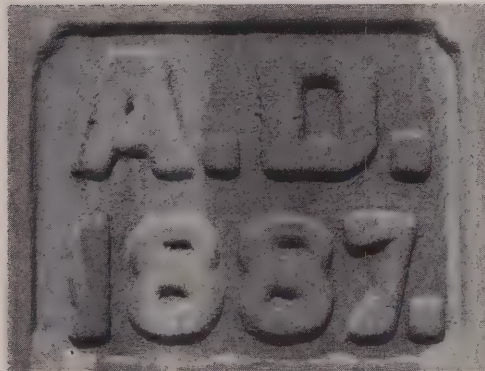
OUR SECOND BUILDING
1887

(From Old Wood Cut)

*"Deutsche Evangelische Reformierte Kirche
An Ecke Wayne Und West Strasse Zu
Lima, Ohio"*



REV. CHRISTIAN BAUM
(1888-1898)
Our Sixth Pastor



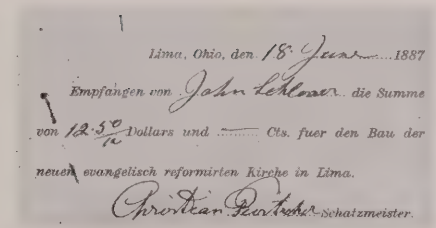
CORNERSTONE OF SECOND BUILDING
Laid May 30, 1887

The cornerstone of the second building was laid on May 30, 1887, containing a vault constructed according to specifications prescribed by the consistory — six inches wide, eight inches deep, and twelve inches long, with instructions that the inscription was to be "nur in Deutsch" — only in German.

Notice of the ceremony was given in the Lima Courier of May 25, 1887, translated from the German as follows:

NOTICE

*The cornerstone of the German Reformed Church
will be laid next Sunday at 2 o'clock. Several good*



ORIGINAL RECEIPT FOR CONTRIBUTION
GIVEN TOWARD SECOND BUILDING — 1887

speakers have been invited to take part in the festivities.

The choir has been diligently practicing to render several numbers. The Building Committee will give a detailed report of what remains to be done.

We invite everybody to help us in the laying of the cornerstone for a Temple of Peace.

In behalf of the congregation

E. Cantieny (Sec.)

the program was Rev. N. E. Vitz, father of our present minister, Rev. Richard P. Vitz.

Rev. Paul H. Land resigned on October 14, 1905, effective as of December 15th of that year and he thereafter became identified with the harbor mission in New York City. He passed away on September 19, 1951, at Setauket, Long Island, New York, having served at the mission for more than forty-five years.

REV. ALVIN G. GEKELER OUR EIGHTH PASTOR

INDIVIDUAL COMMUNION CUP INTRODUCED PLANS MADE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNEX

Rev. Alvin G. Gekeler entered upon his duties as our eighth pastor on April 13, 1906, coming to Lima from the Emmanuel Reformed Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. His wife, Ida Theodora Bossard Gekeler, was the daughter of Dr. James Bossard, founder of the Mission House.

During his pastorate the individual communion cup was introduced and improvements to the parsonage were also effected. The need for additional facilities for the growing Sunday School became increasingly apparent as well as for enlarging the seating capacity of the church auditorium.

Consequently detailed plans were prepared and construction started. Before the work was completed, however, Rev. Gekeler brought his pastorate to a close, preaching his last sermon on August 22, 1909. He later served as pastor of the Calvary Reformed Church in Lima and afterward went to Ada, Ohio. During his career, he served for four years as field secretary for the Home Mission Board of the Central and Northwest Synods and was a member of the board of directors of the Mission House.

Rev. Gekeler died on March 26, 1916, at the age of 57 years and was buried at Lima.

REV. HENRY C. SCHLUETER NINTH PASTOR

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNEX AND CHURCH BALCONY DEDICATED

Rev. Henry C. Schlueter of Baltimore, Maryland preached his trial sermon here on December 12, 1909, beginning his pastorate on March 1, 1910. It was his privilege to preside at the dedication ceremonies held for the new Sunday School Annex and Church Balcony which took place on June 26, 1910. Participating in this service were Rev. Alfred Grether of New Bremen, Rev. Josiah Friedli of New Knoxville, and Prof. Philip Vollmer of Central Theological Seminary, Day-

ton, Ohio. At the time of dedication, Mrs. Frederick G. Stueber was serving as choir director, Prof. Harold B. Adams as organist, and William J. Renz was Sunday School superintendent. The Sunday School Annex measured 52 feet by 72 feet and was of brick construction. An imposing gallery was also erected in the church auditorium, increasing the seating capacity to upwards of 500. The cost of this entire improvement was \$18,000 of which \$10,000 was paid at the time of dedication and \$8,000 remained as a debt. The building committee was composed of Louis Koch, Dr. Frederick G. Stueber, Henry G. Wemmer, Carl Boegel, and Edward Snook. Mr. Valentine Heil and Mr. Charles Kahleis were the builders.

"EVANGELISCHER GEMEINDE — BOTE"

During his pastorate, Rev. Schlueter published a monthly church bulletin in printed form entitled "Evangelischer Gemeinde — Bote" (The Messenger) which contained news of the congregation, essays, poems, sermons, and many scriptural quotations. Many of our older members still recall such publication which was in both German and English. The cover contained a drawing of our high steepled church designed by Walt DeWeese which portrayed an angel with a trumpet in hand admonishing the people to "HOERET DES HERRN WORT" — "listen to the word of the Lord."

Several organizations were organized or reorganized. The Young Peoples Society was reorganized on September 1, 1910, and the King's Daughters Society was reorganized on October 20, 1910. The men of the church finally decided that they too, should form a group to assist the church. The "Mannerbund" was organized on October 20, 1910.

Rev. Schlueter submitted his resignation on March 19, 1914, and preached his farewell sermon on May 24, 1914, ending his pastorate on June 1st of that year. He returned to his former home in Baltimore, Maryland and passed away there on November 1, 1937, at the age of 82 years.

REV. TILLMAN W. HOERNEMANN— TENTH PASTOR

Rev. Tillman W. Hoernemann, D. D., became the tenth pastor of our congregation, coming to Lima from Wabasha, Minnesota. He delivered his trial sermon on August 9, 1914, and began on November 1, 1914, what was to prove the longest pastorate in the history of our church—a pastorate which marked a transition from a German church to an English church. He was the first minister without a beard to serve our church and has often laughingly referred to such fact. It became his task to direct the destiny of the congregation during the difficult years of World War I and the transition period which followed.



REV. PAUL H. LAND
(1898-1905)
Our Seventh Pastor



REV. ALVIN G. GEKELER
(1906-1909)
Our Eighth Pastor



REV. HENRY C. SCHLUETER
(1910-1914)
Our Ninth Pastor

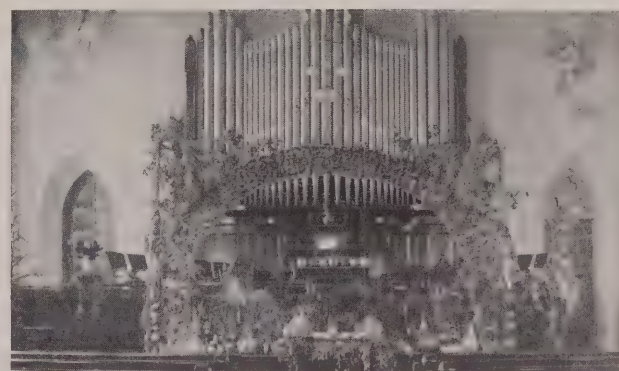


CHURCH INTERIOR — 1902

Portrayed herewith is a view of the front part of the church auditorium taken about 1902 during a rehearsal of a children's program at the time when Rev. Paul H. Land was pastor.

The old pipe organ and choir loft can be seen as well as a hymn bulletin board at the lower left of the instrument. Interesting to observe is the absence of steps at the west side of the choir loft and to note the two full length doors leading into what were classrooms; the time was several years prior to the erection of the Sunday School Annex.

Children portrayed on the platform include Ruth Stueber



CHURCH INTERIOR — 1911

and the following children of Rev. Land: Theodora, Jessie and Herbert.

Pictured above at right is a view of the front part of the church auditorium taken about 1911 during Rev. Henry C. Schlueter's pastorate at the time of a Harvest Home Festival.

Of special interest are the two paintings of singing angels placed on canvas over the doorways leading to the Sunday School Annex by Mr. Robert Vittur, well known artist of the firm of Vittur and DeCurtin.

This view portrays the old organ located behind the pulpit and an old lighting fixture above the altar.

GOLDEN JUBILEE OBSERVED

On September 5, 1915 and for three days thereafter, the church observed its 52nd anniversary by a Golden Jubilee. In the Lima News of September 5, 1915, this celebration was described as "one of the greatest events in the history of local German Protestant people." Comprehensive orange colored souvenir booklets were published which contained for the first time detailed information about the church in word and picture. Rev. John H. Stepler, our former minister who served at the time of erection of the second building, spoke at the Sunday morning service. English Sunday School services were conducted in the afternoon at which time Rev. W. H. Lahr of Bluffton and Rev. F. H. Rupnow of St. Marys were in charge. Great crowds turned out for the observance in spite of inclement weather.

The Forward Movement of the Reformed Church was launched during Rev. Hoernemann's pastorate. This was a giant undertaking to raise ten million dollars for the boards and institutions of our denomination. Our church responded by contributing \$18,000 to the cause.

WORLD WAR I—GERMAN SERVICES CURTAILED

After two and one-half years of Rev. Hoernemann's ministry, the world was plunged into a devastating conflict—World War I. Many young men responded to the call of their country. It was deemed advisable to informally change the name of our body to "FIRST REFORMED CHURCH." The use of German was temporarily dropped about the beginning of the year 1918, and for a couple years English was used exclusively. Up until February 5, 1919, the minutes of the consistory and congregation were written in German, but from that date to the present the minutes have appeared in English. At a congregational meeting held on January 4, 1920, the members voted to reestablish German for only the last Sunday in each month. English thereafter became the prevailing language. On September 12, 1923, children's services were authorized to be held at 10:05 a.m. on the last Sunday of each month with German services following at 10:45 a.m. The last German hymnals were ordered by action taken February 3, 1926.

NEW PARSONAGE BUILT AND NEW ORGAN INSTALLED

After the war, the congregation proceeded to make certain improvements. A building committee for a new parsonage was composed of Fred E. Thiesing, Fred W. Zeits, Henry Kuhlman, and L. E. Fenneman, to serve with the trustees. A spacious brick parsonage was finally constructed on the site of the original parsonage in the autumn of 1921 at a cost of \$17,000 and the sum of \$510 was realized from the sale of the old dwelling. On May

24, 1920, the congregation authorized the exterior of the church to be stuccoed at a cost of \$3,500 and the work was completed by September 8th of that year. The red brick appearance of the church building was now only a memory but in its place a beautiful exterior appeared which except for the tall steeple is what we can observe today.

On September 18, 1921, a new three manual Skinner organ was installed at a cost of \$15,000 and was placed at the west side of the auditorium with the organist now being seated at floor level instead of directly behind the pulpit. This organ was considered the finest in the city at the time and has greatly aided in the worship service. In the same year a revised duplex envelope system was inaugurated although certain other types of envelopes had been previously tried. On September 6, 1922, the consistory authorized the pastor to publish a weekly church bulletin which came to be known as "The Informer."

A committee was appointed on February 7, 1923, to translate and revise the church constitution; this committee consisted of Fred C. Herold, Valentine Heil, William J. Weber, Jr., and Rev. T. W. Hoernemann. A revised document was adopted at the congregational meeting held on January 7, 1924.

Interest in men's activities was constantly growing throughout the denomination and in 1925 the Men's Congress of West Ohio was organized and the first meeting was held in the Lima church.

On October 28, 1929, the resignation of Rev. Tillman W. Hoernemann was accepted effective as of December 1, 1929. He left Lima to accept a call to the First Reformed Church at New Philadelphia, Ohio. Thus ended the longest pastorate in the history of our church, a pastorate which had a definite part in shaping the destiny of First Church in the decades to come.

REV. REUBEN J. SCHROER— ELEVENTH PASTOR

ECONOMIC DEPRESSION FAILS TO STEM CHURCH GROWTH

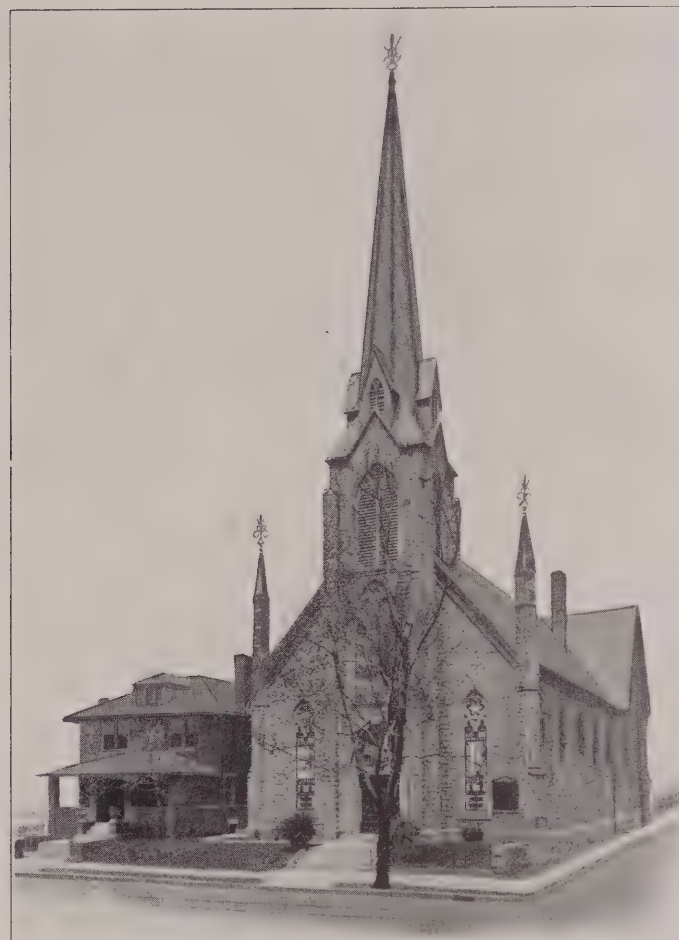
Pursuant to an invitation extended by the consistory, Rev. Reuben J. Schroer was next called to be our pastor. His pastorate began on May 1, 1930, and covered an extremely difficult time in our nation's history when bank failures and economic depression cast their shadows over the land. In spite of such obstacles, however, First Reformed Church under his skillful leadership continued to grow spiritually as well as materially. The benevolent appointment was paid in full each year notwithstanding the financial condition of the church membership.

In a summary report to the congregation for the year 1933, Rev. Schroer states:



AS OUR CHURCH LOOKED IN 1888

Believed to be the earliest photograph of our second building, this picture contained in an 1890 publication portrays the new Gothic church and the first parsonage, the latter having been erected in 1876.



AS OUR CHURCH LOOKED
FROM 1921 TO 1936

The exterior of the second building was stuccoed in 1920 and a new parsonage was erected in 1921, shown at left of the church edifice. The high steeple was removed in 1936 following a severe windstorm occurring on August 25th of that year.

"This year of 1933 was a year of collapse in the industrial world. Bank failures everywhere and the national bank holiday declared in February. Church suffered great losses in closed bank. God, however, marvelously blessed the people and the work. It was wonderful the way the people took their losses. Little complaint or murmuring. In fact, the attendance and interest during the year was as good or better than ever before."

Rev. Schroer made a determined effort to visit each church family at least once each year. German services were still held on the last Sunday of each month; records show the average attendance at such services was 140.

CHURCH KNOWN AS "FIRST EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED"

On June 26, 1934, the Reformed Church in the United States and the Evangelical Synod of North America merged to form a new church known as the Evangelical and Reformed Church. By informal action, our local body now became known as "THE FIRST EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH OF LIMA, OHIO."

TOWERING STEEPLE REMOVED

For many decades the tall spire of our church was a landmark in downtown Lima. On August 25, 1936, a severe wind-storm damaged the lofty church steeple and with deepest regret it was necessary to remove it. Our members rejoiced, however, when it was learned that the great bell which served us since 1887 would be retained.

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED

In October of 1938, the seventy-fifth anniversary of our church was appropriately observed. Former pastors Rev. Paul H. Land and Rev. Tillman W. Hoernemann returned to participate in the occasion. Confirmation class reunions representing catechumens confirmed in pastorates from Rev. Pluess to Rev. Schroer were held. A special commemorative souvenir booklet was issued and special recognition of the event was given.

On December 31, 1938, Rev. Reuben J. Schroer's pastorate came to a close and he left Lima to accept a call to serve the First Evangelical and Reformed Church of Akron, Ohio.

REV. PAUL H. GRAESER TWELFTH PASTOR

WORLD WAR II SEES TERMINATION OF GERMAN

Rev Paul H. Graeser came to Lima from the Salem Evangelical and Reformed Church, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, on April 16, 1939. During his pastorate the nation and world were again plunged

into conflict. With the beginning of World War II after the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the use of German was promptly discontinued — this time the discontinuance was to be permanent. World War II called eighty-six sons and daughters of First Evangelical and Reformed Church to the service of their country. Five of them made the supreme sacrifice and memorial services were held for the following: George Henry Smith, Chester Doyle Conrad, Harold Charles Rhoades, Mark Henry Kolter, and John Arthur Leppla.

NEW BASEMENT AUDITORIUM ERECTED

In 1950 a spacious basement auditorium was constructed providing additional Sunday School facilities for the children's department. Formal dedicatory services were held on March 19, 1950, at which time Rev. C. Kent Chidester of Toledo, vice-president of Northwest Ohio Synod and a son of the congregation, delivered the address. Presentation of the keys for the enlarged parish house was made to Rev. Graeser by Mr. G. E. Herold, chairman of the building committee and by Mr. Oscar G. Altstetter representing the board of trustees. On June 12, 1950, the consistory authorized the installation of a wall plaque in the new addition containing the following inscription:

*"AN ABIDING MEMORIAL DEDICATED TO THE
GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MISS NETTIE M. SNOOK"*

Miss Nettie M. Snook had been a member of the confirmation class of 1879 under Rev. J. H. Stepler and for many years had ably served as superintendent of the children's department of the Sunday School.

After fulfilling the duties as pastor longer than any other minister except Rev. Hoernemann, Rev. Paul H. Graeser brought his pastorate to an end. His term had witnessed the remodeling of the Sunday School rooms, the redecoration of the sanctuary and the installation of storm glass windows to protect the beautiful stained glass windows. Rev. Graeser introduced several original revised installation manuals for members of the consistory and the Sunday School cabinet. He resigned as of August 15, 1952, accepting a call to the Evangelical and Reformed Church in Harrison Township, Van Wert County, Ohio.

REV. RICHARD P. VITZ OUR THIRTEENTH AND PRESENT PASTOR

MEMBERSHIP VISITATION AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES STRESSED

Rev. Richard P. Vitz, the thirteenth and present minister, assumed his duties on January 1, 1953, coming to Lima from the Germantown, Ohio, church. Special emphasis has been placed upon home visitation and careful attention given to

Consistories of Yester-year



1915 CONSISTORY
(In office at Golden Jubilee)

1st Row, left to right — Henry Deisel, Sr., Elder; Dr. Frederick G. Stueber, Elder; Louis Koch, Elder; Rev. Tillman W. Hoernemann, Pastor; William Rhoda, Elder.

2nd Row, left to right — Rudolph Geiser, Deacon; Edward Snook, Deacon; Thomas Schulz, Deacon; Thomas Burkhardt, Trustee and Secretary; Valentine Heil, Trustee; William Wemmer, Trustee.

3rd Row, left to right — Henry Wemmer, Trustee and Treasurer; Oscar Frey, Deacon; George Klein, Trustee; Philip Dinkel, Deacon.



1938 CONSISTORY
(In office at 75th Anniversary)

1st Row, left to right — Carl Kuhlman, Deacon; Fred Getz, Elder; Rev. Reuben J. Schroer, Pastor; Fred W. Zeits, Elder.

2nd Row, left to right — Amos O. Long, Sr., Trustee; G. E. Herold, Deacon; Dr. Paul Stueber, Elder; Frank Danner, Deacon; Carl Rhoda, Deacon.

3rd Row, left to right — Fred Herold, Elder; Harvey Allen, Deacon; William Koch, Trustee; Lee G. Van Blargan, Deacon; John Klinger, Trustee.

4th Row, left to right — Clarence Frey, Sr., Treasurer; William Kinzer, Deacon; Herbert Rable, Deacon; Grover Neuman, Trustee; Oscar Altstetter, Trustee.

sick and disabled members. Stress has also been placed upon youth activities and a well developed program of social and athletic interest has been adopted. Youth caravan trips to several areas of the United States have been made under the direction of Rev. and Mrs. Vitz with the aid of other adult members and several church camp and retreat activities have been supported.

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS—

PARKING LOT — EDUCATIONAL ANNEX

In the summer of 1961, the lot adjoining the church property on the west was acquired and a much needed modern parking lot was constructed. Realizing the need for further expansion of facilities, a new Educational Annex was completed in this centennial year of 1963. Additional classrooms, a kitchen, parlor, and church offices were included in the project and formal dedication was made on March 3, 1963. The cost of the recent improvements is approximately \$50,000. and in addition many incidental matters have been taken care of such as installation of new sidewalks, refurbishing of the walnut doors of the church building, new lighting fixtures and redecoration of both the Sunday School rooms and the church auditorium.

The building committee for the recent addition consisted of Mr. Grover Neuman, Mr. William Rummel, Mrs. Ralph Burkholder, Mr. Arthur Orchard, Mr. Florenz Clausing, Mr. Fred Heil, and Mrs. Albert Arnett.

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Since the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Church had united on June 25, 1957, followed by ratification of a new constitution at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in July of 1961, our local congregation on January 20, 1963, adopted a new constitution which among other things changed the name of our organization to "THE FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED) OF LIMA, OHIO." Subsequently, on March 13, 1963, an amendment to the original articles of incorporation was filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Columbus. Thus although informally having been known by the names "First Reformed" and "First Evangelical and Reformed," the official name of the church under which it was originally organized "The German Evangelical Reformed Congregation of Lima, Ohio" had served for almost a century. It was deemed advisable by our congregation to still retain the words "Evangelical and Reformed" as part of our present name as a connecting link to the past.

With the membership of our church now reaching 994 as of July 1, 1963, the pastor, consistory, and congregation join in a firm effort to make The First United Church of Christ (Evangelical and Reformed) of Lima, Ohio, a worthy agency of almighty God.

AN APPRAISAL OF THE PAST AND A CHALLENGE FOR THE FUTURE

Our church at West and Wayne now stands upon the mountain top of one hundred years of Christian worship and service. The trail backward was indeed an exciting trail—a trail forged with the labor and sacrifices of our sturdy pioneer forefathers. Many acts have not been and can not be recorded in written form. New generations have come and gone. Many of the family names of our early members are no longer listed on the roll, but many descendants have stood loyally by the church and have never wavered in their devotion. Many new families coming into our church have added the strength of their ability and character to those whose parents and grandparents were members.

The language of our founders and early members is now seldom heard within church walls but the language tie has not been yet completely severed. At the Christmas worship service held on December 23, 1962, the congregation and choir with amazing force and vigor sang in German the first verse of "Stille Nacht' Heilige Nacht" ("Silent Night, Holy Night")—the first time German was sung by our congregation for more than twenty years.

Time alone cannot erase the fond memories associated with baptism of infants or with the impressive confirmation day ceremonies conducted at the sacred altar of our church. The sound of our beloved bell and its stirring message will ever challenge the sons and daughters of First United Church of Christ (Evangelical and Reformed) to attain even greater things in the second century which lies ahead—along a trail which leads ever upward, not downward.

Let us adopt as our motto the words used by the unforgettable organization of by-gone years, the King's Daughters:

*"Look upward, not downward
Look forward; not backward
Look outward, not inward
Lend a helping hand"*

God indeed has been good to this congregation throughout the years and His words still comfort us:

MATT. 28:20

*"Siehe, ich bin bei euch alle Tage bis an der Welt ende."
"Lo, I am with you always, even until the end of the world."*

A Confirmation Class of Yester-year



CONFIRMATION CLASS CONFIRMED MARCH 24, 1907 BY REV. ALVIN G. GEKELER

Left to right: 1st Row (seated) — John Maurer, Carl Guenther, Wilbur Leppa, Carl Stelzer, Albert Braun, Roy E. Schulz.

2nd Row (seated) — Mabel Kissel, Clara Hoegner, Rev. Alvin G. Gekeler, Clara Keller, Sophia Hoff.

3rd Row (standing) — Catherine Wessler, Minnie Heitzler, Bertha Deaubler, Nell Hoff, Ruth Stuff, Lulu Neubright, Pauline Walther, Helen Laeuffer, Frieda Blank, Ruth Stueber.

4th Row (standing) — Walter Hofmann, Robert Dibling, Lillian Deisel, Pauline Wemmer, Emma Urfer, Stella Tiemeyer, Hattie Thoring, Frances Muehlbauer, Bertha Hoegner, Cora Eberle, Emma Keller.

5th Row (standing) — Albert Rothe, Erwin Frey, Walter Renz, Carl Snook, Oscar Schick, Carl Herold, John R. Geiser, Louis Schulz.

Absent when photograph was taken: Edward Woll.

Confirmation is always a busy time in the religious life of the young man and young woman. Ever since the German Evangelical Reformed Church was founded in 1863, great emphasis has been placed upon the sacred rite of confirmation preceded by

a course of thorough instruction in the Bible, the Heidelberg Catechism, and church history.

The above class picture, representative of all classes confirmed from Rev. George Rettig to Rev. Richard P. Vitz, was selected for inclusion in the centennial booklet on the basis of age, photographic clarity, and ability to identify the members portrayed. The names are taken as listed on official church records. The unusually large size of the class herewith pictured was due in part to the length of period elapsing between the pastorates of Rev. Paul H. Land and Rev. Alvin G. Gekeler.

THE FIRST QUESTION IN THE CATECHISM— CAN WE RECALL IT?

*"Was is dein einiger Trost
im Leben und im Sterben?"*

*"Dass ich mit Leib und Seele,
beides im Leben und Sterben,
nicht mein, sondern meines
getreuen Heilandes Jesu
Christi eigen bin . . ."*

*"What is thy only comfort
in life and death?"*

*"That I, with body and soul,
both in life and in death am
not my own, but belong unto
my faithful Saviour, Jesus
Christ . . ."*

CATECHETICAL INSTRUCTION

From the very beginning of our church, confirmation has been stressed both by the local church and by the denomination. The first recorded confirmation took place on January 9, 1864—four months after the organization of the church as evidenced by the presentation of a pulpit Bible on the day of their confirmation by thirty-four persons. It is likely to assume that Rev. George Rettig, the first pastor, had given instruction to the class even before September 5, 1863—the date of the formation of the congregation.

From 1864 to 1869 the official records reveal little information although it is reasonable to suppose that classes were annually confirmed. For the first two decades of the church's existence, the names of the confirmation scholars in existing records are incomplete. In 1938 during the pastorate of Rev. Reuben J. Schroer, names of confirmation class members were gathered from official records and from personal contact. Today, except for the first quarter of a century, we have a fairly good record of the classes although not necessarily accurate in every respect.

Present records of the church disclose from 1863 to 1963 inclusive the names of 1171 persons confirmed during the following respective pastorates:

Rev. George Rettig — (1863 to 1865)	34
Rev. W. H. Fenneman — (1865 to 1869)	
Rev. C. Pluess — (1869 to 1873)	3
Rev. C. F. Waldecker — (1873 to 1877)	39
Rev. John H. Stepler — (1878 to 1888)	76
Rev. Christian Baum — (1888 to 1898)	68
Rev. Paul H. Land — (1898 to 1905)	122
Rev. Alvin G. Gekeler — (1906 to 1909)	89
Rev. Henry C. Schlueter — (1910 to 1914)	80
Rev. Tillman W. Hoernemann — (1914 to 1929)	172
Rev. Herbert Wernecke (Supply minister — 1930)	11
Rev. Reuben J. Schroer — (1930 to 1938)	140
Rev. Paul H. Graeser — (1939 to 1952)	153
Rev. Richard P. Vitz — (1953 to present)	184
Total number of recorded confirmands	1171

At the present time, as of July 1, 1963, the oldest confirmed member still living and affiliated with our church is Mrs. Anna Duval Jerold who was confirmed in the class of 1887 by Rev. John H. Stepler. This class was the only class confirmed outside of the church building since the erection of the first structure in 1866. This was made necessary by reason of the construction of our present edifice in 1887 and for a brief time the congregation met in temporary quarters in another church building on South Main Street.

Only one class was not confirmed by a permanent pastor. This was the class of 1930 confirmed by Prof. Herbert Wer-

necke who as supply minister served between the pastorates of Rev. Tillman W. Hoernemann and Rev. Reuben J. Schroer. During the year 1938 near the close of Rev. Schroer's term, members of the classes began to be uniformly attired in appropriate robes at confirmation time.

Twenty-six young people were confirmed on Palm Sunday of this centennial year. Twenty-five boys and girls are also enrolled in the first year class with confirmation scheduled in 1964. Two years of thorough instruction is given in the Heidelberg catechism, the Bible and in local and denominational church history. Confirmation Day is always a red letter day in the life of the young men and women who kneel at the altar in dedication of their lives to the service of God.

THE MUSIC OF OUR CHURCH

(INSTRUMENTS — CHOIRS — ORGANISTS — DIRECTORS)

For many decades First Church has been known throughout northwestern Ohio as a church of good music. Our musical heritage actually began even prior to the organization of the church when about 1859 or 1860 Rev. Peter Greding of Riley Creek started Saturday evening rehearsals for anthems and songs to be used at the Sunday services he was conducting for the early German settlers in the Lima area. It is reported that for several years after the erection of the first building, a tuning fork was used by Mr. Jacob Moser who served as choir director for more than a quarter of a century. This tuning fork was similar to one used by Rev. Greding and is pictured elsewhere in this booklet.

Sometime after the completion of the first building in 1867, the musical instrument used to assist the choir was a Jewett and Goodman rosewood melodeon loaned to the German Reformed Church by Mrs. Anna Zimmerman and Mrs. Margaret Sullivan, mother and aunt respectively of Mrs. A. N. Bruzelius. This melodeon is also pictured in this booklet and is on permanent exhibit in the Allen County Museum. This instrument was followed by the use of a small reed organ and then by a large reed organ.

In 1891 during the pastorate of Rev. Christian Baum, a pipe organ was installed in the present building which had been erected in 1887. Some members desired to have the organ placed in the rear of the church auditorium in the small balcony located there but it was finally decided to have it situated directly behind the pulpit. This organ served the congregation until 1921 when a new three manual Skinner organ was installed at a cost of \$15,000, being placed at the west side of the sanctuary. Dedicated on September 18, 1921, by the renowned organist and choir master of Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland, Ohio, Edwin Arthur Kraft, this magnificent instrument has ever been a constant source of inspiration. It is interesting to note that

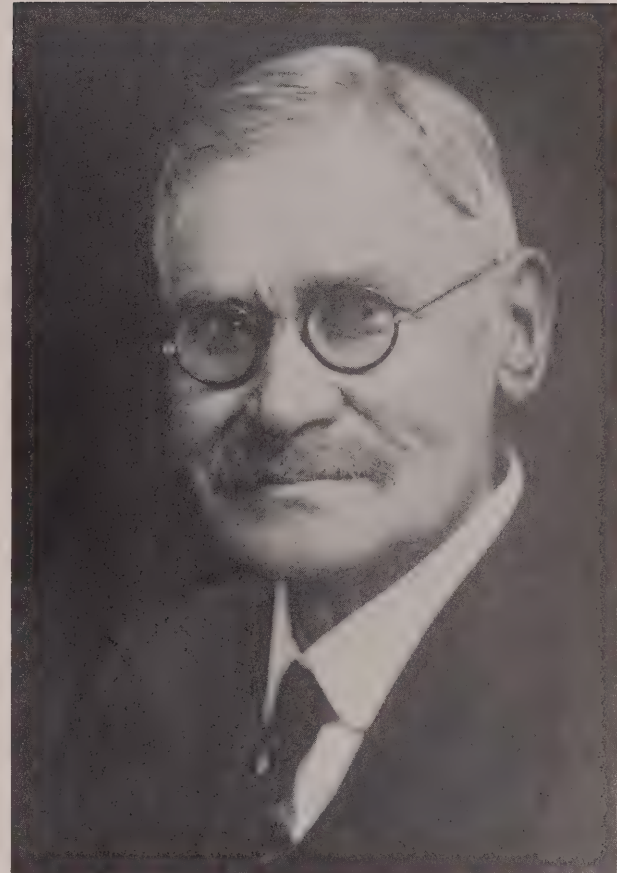
A Christian Steward of Yester-year

The outstanding record of Mr. George Klein, former elder and choir member, cannot be erased from the memories of our congregation. When God called him to a higher service on December 26, 1932, at the age of 77 years, 11 months, Mr. Klein left an imprint on the life of the church he loved which is still plainly visible in this centennial year.

The son of Martin Klein and Catherine Herold Klein, George Klein was born at Eubingheim, Baden, Germany, on January 6, 1855, and came to the United States about 1872. He soon became identified with the German Reformed Church of Lima and as a young man joined the choir and was elected to the consistory. He was a member of the building committee for the 1887 church edifice. For almost sixty years he was a faithful member of the choir — a record never equalled to date. He was also a member of the consistory for many decades, serving as elder for about forty years. Elder Klein's devotion to his duties was unparalleled and he would give much of his time in visiting the sick. Often serving as a delegate to the synod, he was also active in the Men's Bible Class of the Sunday School.

George Klein served under many ministers of our church from Rev. John H. Stepler to Rev. Reuben J. Schroer. In a resolution adopted by the consistory on January 9, 1933, after his departure, it is recited:

"The congregation will be lonesome without him. He gave to his church the best labor of his heart. In expressing our sympathy in the church's loss, we pray that the youth of the congregation may imitate his steadfastness, his faithfulness, and his loyalty to the cause of Christianity, and so live that in old age theirs may be, as was his, that tranquility which, resting on a Christian's hope, will disarm death of its terrors".



MR. GEORGE KLEIN

on November 13, 1946, twenty-five years later, the organ was rededicated with appropriate selections played by the same individual who originally played at its dedication, Mr. Edwin Arthur Kraft.

Organists who served in the early period of the church included Mrs. Frederick G. Stueber, Mrs. W. H. Deakin, Miss Lily Kline and Mesdames Sullivan, Ohl, Floyd and Montague. Prof. Harold B. Adams was church organist from November 26, 1898 to January, 1911. He was succeeded by Miss Ella Eysenbach on April 5, 1911. Miss Eysenbach who is still remembered by many of our members, ably performed her duties as such until December 3, 1930. Mr. George Urich then assumed the position of organist and wrote many original organ numbers during his tenure. He was succeeded by Miss Dorothy Rhoda, now Mrs. John McNett, on September 1, 1942. Mrs. McNett, with an enviable record of twenty-one consecutive years of faithful service, has served longer than any other person in such capacity. She is ably assisted by Mr. Ronald Vermillion. Other persons recently serving as assistant organist include Miss Gloria King, Miss Louise Leppla, Mr. Alan Leech and Miss Judy Becker.

A number of men and women have served as choir directors through the years. The terms of four have covered nearly the entire century. Mr. Jacob Moser was choir director for more than 25 years during the nineteenth century. Mr. Henry Deisel, Sr. for almost 40 years directed the group. Many of the older members can still vividly remember the graceful and dignified way in which Mr. Deisel would leave his pew on the east side of the church, enter the center aisle, and majestically mount the rostrum and bid the choir members to rise. Thereafter in an expert manner he would direct the choir to sing beautiful anthems in the German and English languages. Miss Ella Eysenbach, after Mr. Deisel's tragic death in 1932, served as directress of the choir for approximately 16 years. Our present choir director is Mr. John S. Walters who has led the group in a competent manner for the past 15 years. Other past directors include Mr. Fred C. Herold, Mr. Henry Schaefer and Miss Millie Sonntag.

Our present senior choir in recent years has performed Handel's "Messiah," Rossini's "Stabat Mater," Gaul's "Holy City" and many works from the great oratorios and cantatas.

To a large degree the choir's success can be attributed to the excellence of both its choral voices and soloists. The solo work of Mr. Burdette Vermillion, tenor; Mrs. Orlando E. Flederjohann, contralto; Mr. James Rothe, Bass; Miss Lucille Atkinson, soprano; and Mrs. Louis Meckstroth, soprano, has been exceptionally outstanding. It is interesting to observe that on special occasions the last three pastors, Rev. Reuben J. Schroer, Rev. Paul H. Graeser, and Rev. Richard P. Vitz, have also participated in choir work.

Loyal service has long been a tradition of our choir members. Mr. Carl W. Wolf has been a member of the choir since 1905—a period of 58 years—although for about 7 years of that time he was employed out of the city and could not give full time to choir work. Six members have also served more than 40 years: Mr. Clarence Frey, Sr., 45 years; Mr. Lester Snook, 44 years; Miss Martha Schaefer, 44 years; Miss Lucille Atkinson, 43 years; and Mr. Carl Rhoda, 42 years. Also worthy of note is the all time record established by Mr. George Klein who at the time of his death in 1932 had completed 59 years of service. This record also was approached within the past decade by Mr. William Koch and Mr. Fred C. Herold, each of whom sang for 55 years.

During the past several years an increasing interest in the program of the choir has been evidenced by the young people including the valuable contribution made by several high school students. The choir was vested in 1936 and appeared for the first time in their vestments on December 13, 1936 at the annual Christmas candlelight service. In 1962 new style robes were acquired and our choir indeed makes an impressive appearance. The choir perpetuates itself; children and grandchildren of former members have taken their places. Great advancement in this very important work of the church is expected.

THE JUNIOR CHOIR

The Junior Choir was first organized in 1933 under the direction of Miss Martha Schaefer and was originally known as the Children's Choir. The present choral group is capably directed by Mrs. Richard P. Vitz and is accompanied by Mrs. Thomas Laut. It sings on the last Sunday of each month. In 1962 a double candlelight service was observed on Christmas eve with the Junior Choir participating in one service. This promises to be the initiation of a new annual tradition.

Clothed in impressive vestments, this youthful singing group has contributed much to the musical life of the congregation.

OTHER CHURCH ACTIVITIES

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The year 1927 was a turning point in First Church in that it witnessed the beginning of a youth movement in sports which has gained momentum over the years. It was recognized that supervised athletic activities form an important part in building Christian character.

Bowling was about the first sport to be introduced and our church received its first trophy in 1927. Reorganized in 1955, the church had two bowling teams in the league and received a trophy in the first year of reactivated bowling, both teams being tied for first place.

Two Christian Stewards of Yester-year



MISS ELLA EYSENBACH

Well remembered is Miss Ella Eysenbach, former organist and choir director who passed away in 1959, leaving an enviable record of service to First Church in the field of music. On April 5, 1911, she was chosen organist to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of Prof. Harold B. Adams. She was recommended to the consistory by a special committee selected to investigate qualifications of prospective persons suitable for this position, this committee consisting of Messrs. Henry Deisel, Fred C. Herold, Thomas Burkhardt and Rev. Henry C. Schlueter. She had graduated from Chicago Musical College and taught for three years at St. Katharine's School at Davenport, Iowa. She studied for two seasons



MISS LENA STELZER

in Berlin, Germany under Prof. Martin Krause and Alexander Von Fielity. She capably served as organist until December 3, 1930.

After Mr. Henry Deisel, Sr.'s untimely death in 1932, she became choir director and served as such for approximately sixteen years. Miss Eysenbach was also active in various organizations of the church and was teacher of the Mary Martha Class for many years. For many years she also was pianist in the Sunday School.

Miss Ella Eysenbach died on November 4, 1959. Her long period of service and her substantial contribution to the musical life of the congregation will not be soon forgotten.

A roving ambassador of good will and friendship, Miss Lena Stelzer in an unpretentious way carried the message of Christian stewardship into the homes of our congregation for many decades. Unsolicited, she would frequently drop in at the homes unannounced and would lend a helping hand where sickness or death had invaded them. She was a welcome guest wherever she went and during the pastorates of many ministers made a multitude of friends.

Lena was born in Germany and came to the United States from her home in Gau-Oderheim in 1881 at the age of twelve, accompanied by her parents and eight brothers and sisters. The family settled first in Spencerville, Ohio, where she obtained her first job doing housework. She often spoke of how she worked for twenty-five cents a week and that she felt rich when her employer finally increased her wages to fifty cents a week. Upon her removal to Lima, she soon won herself an enviable place in the hearts of our people. Her home on West Eureka Street was a veritable museum of items collected from three trips made abroad. She was active in assisting in young people's activities.

When introducing her as a speaker on one occasion, Mr. James MacDonell, president of the Allen County Historical Society said of Lena:

"She is a lady who is unique in Lima, one who knows more people, has been more places, has done more things, and has scattered more deeds of kindness than a dozen people; a lady who is held in the affection and admiration of all Lima people."

Lena Stelzer was almost a legend in her service rendered to the Master. She died on November 1, 1946.

A softball team was formed in 1929 representing our Sunday School in the Y. M. C. A. League; trophies were won in 1929 and 1930. Reorganized in 1953, our team won a trophy in the church "A" League in 1954 and was runner-up in the city tournament that year. In the years from 1954 to 1958, our softball teams won the church "A" League championship five times. In 1957 two softball teams were assembled from the Sunday School, one team playing in the "A" League and the other in the "B" League.

Our basketball teams have also enjoyed success. Organized in 1929, our team won a plaque for first place in the Y.M.C.A. Church League. Reorganized in 1949, our church team won league championship in 1949, 1954 and 1957 in the "B" League and in 1961, 1962 and 1963 in the "A" League. In 1961 our Youth Fellowship basketball team was runner-up in the Toledo District Tournament and again in the following year was runner-up in the Ohio-West Virginia Basketball Tournament. In 1960 a second basketball team was formed from our Sunday School in the City Basketball League. Our team became champions of the City League in 1963.

Our members have also participated in various miscellaneous athletic activities such as volleyball and other sports. A large trophy case at the side entrance to the church contains many prizes won over the years, but is inadequate to accommodate all awards received.

Our church is indeed proud of the teams which represent it and appreciates the generous time given by adult supervisors. During the past year Mr. Burdette Vermillion served as manager of the church league softball team; Mr. Paul Riegle, as manager of the Senior Youth Fellowship basketball team; and Mr. James Kincaid as manager of the Forty-Niners basketball team.

CHURCH LIBRARY FACILITIES

In recent years a library of good reading material has been started and maintained in the Parish House and which is accessible to all members. As of December 31, 1962, there were 965 books on the shelves with 42 books out on loan—a total of 1007 volumes in the collection. Mrs. Phyllis Leech serves as Librarian.

JUNIOR CHURCH

During the regular Sunday morning service at 10:15 a.m., a Junior Church is conducted in the Parish House. Ranging in age from two years through eight years, children are given the opportunity of participating in a worship service of their own geared to their level. The Junior Church Committee for 1963 is composed of Mrs. William F. Smith, Mrs. Emmett Setters, Mrs. Calvin Rable, Mrs. Richard P. Vitz and Mrs. Perry Killian. The supervisors perform a very valuable service for our church.

DAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

For many years a Daily Vacation Bible School has been successfully conducted by volunteer workers of the Sunday School and church, the sessions being held at some period during the summer months. A large staff of competent teachers and helpers has contributed to the effectiveness of this worthwhile service. During 1963 the total enrollment was 141 and appreciation is extended to the 16 teachers and 13 helpers who assisted in the splendid work.

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

THE LADIES AID SOCIETY

The Ladies Aid Society enjoys the distinction of being the oldest organization of our church—in fact it is almost as old as the church itself. It was formed on January 3, 1867 by Rev. W. H. Fenneman, our second pastor. Its purpose was to gather funds for the building debt, to bring personal spiritual enrichment to its members and to encourage good works. For many decades it was known by its German name, "Der Frauen-Verein."

Throughout the history of First Church this society has constantly supported and supplemented the work of the consistory. As in many other churches there was an old saying:

"When the consistory has done its best, The Ladies Aid will do the rest."

It was the Ladies Aid Society that contributed the money to purchase our great church bell which has hung in the belfry of the present building since its erection in 1887. To perpetuate this expression of helpfulness, the consistory had inscribed in German on the bell itself these words:

"This bell was paid for by The Ladies Aid Society of the German Evangelical Reformed Congregation of Lima, Ohio, A. D. 1887."

At the 99th anniversary of our church held in October, 1962, special recognition was given to the group for the part played in acquiring the bell seventy-five years before.

When the Golden Jubilee of our church was observed in September, 1915, the records disclose that the following charter members ("grundergleider") were living at that time: Mesdames Lizzie Badertscher, Adalina Frail, Marie Rothe, Katharina Schnug, Rosa Schnug, and Katharina Stueber.

In the minutes of the society for June, 1923, it is recited that it was voted to conduct all future meetings in the English language "since there were some who could not understand the German." Consequently commencing with the meeting held in July, 1923, all minutes thereafter were written in the English language. "Der Frauen-Verein" became known as "The Ladies Aid Society."

Our Congregation of Today

thirty-five



A SUNDAY MORNING CHURCH SERVICE (*Photo taken Sunday, March 31, 1963*)

At the present time fifty-eight members are listed on the roll of the organization. Many worthy causes of the local congregation and the denomination are supported by the society and whenever called upon to serve, the response is immediate.

Officers of The Ladies Aid Society for 1963 are: Mrs. Laura Kempf, president; Mrs. Fanny Anthony, vice-president; Mrs. Lydia Stilgenbauer, secretary; and Mrs. Carrie Linton, treasurer.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The work of the missionary organizations has ever been of utmost importance in the program of the church. The Women's Missionary Society was organized on November 7, 1904, by Rev. Paul H. Land with the pastor's wife serving as the first president. The group through its program of missionary education and participation in reading courses, fosters a deep spiritual basis of devotion in the life of the church.

Several missionary organizations of the past such as the Nettie Snook Society formed in 1931 and the Girls Missionary Guild have united in lending their support to the Women's Missionary Society.

Officers for 1963 are: Miss Martha Schaefer, president; Mrs. Donald Coon, vice-president; Mrs. Ralph Burkholder, secretary; and Mrs. Marvin Bucher, treasurer.

THE MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

On October 20, 1910, a Men's League known in German as "Der Maennerbund" was formed under the direction of Rev. Henry C. Schlueter with an initial membership of 48 members. A constitution was adopted on December 7, 1910 and thus an organized group of church men came into being. Many interesting meetings were held and finally the organization became known as the Men's Brotherhood.

The men of our local church under the guidance of Rev. Tillman W. Hoernemann were prominent in forming the Men's Congress of West Ohio in 1925. This district organization meets at different churches in the autumn of each year and invites speakers of national reputation to participate.

For many years the Men's Brotherhood has cooperated with the Men's Bible Class in assuming responsibility for the holding of the annual father and son banquet.

Officers for 1963 are: Mr. Clarence J. Snook, president; Mr. Carl Bucher, vice-president; Mr. Burdette Vermillion, secretary; and Mr. Leonard Rothe, treasurer.

THE WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild is an organization which includes all women of the church. At a convention held in Cleveland, Ohio, on November 1-3, 1939, the Evangelical and Reformed Church

with its theme "We are laborers together with God" urged the uniting of all efforts toward Kingdom Service in the home, the local church, the community, the nation, and the world and recommended that whenever possible a unit of the guild be established in each church. Synodical guilds were formed in the autumn of 1940 and regional guilds in the spring of 1941. At the first general meeting of the Women's Guild held in Louisville, Kentucky in October, 1941, a new constitution was adopted.

The first meeting held in our local church was called by Rev. Paul H. Graeser in December, 1941. In the spring of 1942, the ladies of First Church met with prayerful confidence that Christ's wish for his disciples "that they all may be one" would be fulfilled. The first group of officers included: Mrs. Ernest J. Heil, president; Mrs. William Kinzer, vice-president; Miss Florence Smith, secretary; and Mrs. W. A. Steiner, treasurer.

The local guild holds monthly meetings at which times interesting speakers, panel discussions, and movies are provided for the group. It also sponsors a church wide mother-daughter banquet held in the spring of the year. At the last banquet staged in May, 1963, a special program relating to the centennial was presented and 267 ladies were in attendance. The Women's Guild also makes up boxes of clothing and other articles which go to the needy and indigent and also to people overseas. During the lenten season, a 24 hour prayer vigil is conducted by the guild. A full retreat at a nearby park is also sponsored and in 1962 a trip to the Children's Home at Ft. Wayne, Indiana was arranged. One of the current projects is the publication of a cookbook of old fashioned recipes under the direction of Mrs. Perry Killian.

The local guild was honored a few years ago by the election of Mrs. Richard P. Vitz as first vice-president of the national Women's Guild of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and recently as a member of the Council of Lay, Life and Work of the United Church of Christ.

Officers of the Women's Guild of First Church for 1963 are: Mrs. Albert Arnett, president; Mrs. Leonard Rothe, first vice-president; Mrs. Roger Tecklenberg, second vice-president; Mrs. Harold W. Schaublin, secretary; and Mrs. Donald Riner, treasurer.

YOUNG PEOPLES ORGANIZATIONS

Our church has always recognized the need for providing a program for its young people. In the early days of the church, the Sunday School was largely attended by young folks and many picnics and social affairs were held. It was soon felt that separate organizations should be formed to meet the requirements of those of teenage and older. In September, 1879, during the pastorate of Rev. John H. Stepler, the class of catechumens whom he confirmed that year met at the home of Mrs. Frederick G. Stueber and organized what was called "Der Jungend Verein".



MRS. HOWARD L. SADDLER
Church Secretary

Mrs. Howard L. Saddler has served as our church secretary since February 15, 1956. In former times this position was sometimes known as financial secretary. Some of Mrs. Saddler's predecessors were Mrs. Suzanne Coon, Mrs. G. E. Herold, and Mr. Carl W. Wolf. Miss Freda Feickert also served as church worker for several years in the late twenties.



NEW EDUCATIONAL ANNEX—1963
(Shown at left in picture)

Dedicated on March 3, 1963, our church has witnessed completion in its centennial year of much needed facilities including additional Sunday School classrooms, a comfortably furnished church parlor, kitchen facilities, and church offices supplementing the construction in 1961 of a new modern parking lot adjoining the church.



MR. JULIUS BATES — *Sexton*

Mr. Julius Bates has served as sexton for several years and within the past year, Mr. Franklin Kuck has also served in this capacity. Former sextons who served for substantial periods of time include Henry Stutzman, Philip Dinkel, Robert Keller, Michael Keller, E. C. Long, Peter Leppla, John Schnabel, Daniel Wilhelm, John Zulliger, Claude Emerson, Ralph Dunifon, Edmund Decker, and Dale Peters.

The group later became known at successive times as The Young Peoples Society, Christian Endeavor, and Youth Fellowship.

At the present time our church has an active Senior Youth Fellowship and a Junior Youth Fellowship. The senior group has taken caravan trips to St. Louis and Chicago. In addition to holding regular meetings, they participate in Easter Sunrise Service, National Youth Sunday, and also sponsor chili suppers, work-days, hayrides and have enjoyed many outings.

Officers of the Senior Youth Fellowship for 1963 are: Robert Vitz, president; Barbara Rothe, vice-president; Judy Becker, secretary; and Paul Leppla, treasurer. Advisors include Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kreher and Mr. Robert McFarland.

The Junior Youth Fellowship consists of members of the two catechetical classes plus the ninth graders. They meet twice a month and enjoy a variety of activities in addition to formal gatherings, including picnics, pizza parties and hayrides.

Officers of the Junior Youth Fellowship for 1963 are: Jane Orchard, president; Rick Heaston, vice-president; Judy Schwark, secretary; and Tom Riegle, treasurer. Mrs. James Kincaid acts as advisor. Other adults assisting in the work are: Mrs. Albert Arnett, Mr. William Wieck, and Mrs. Arthur Orchard.

THE KING'S DAUGHTERS

UNFORGETTABLE ORGANIZATION OF THE PAST

No centennial booklet would be complete without mention of the valuable work of an organization of by-gone years—The King's Daughters. Although now no longer in existence, it was one of the most active church groups of all times as many former members will testify.

On October 11, 1890, the Sunday School class of Mrs. Frederick G. Stueber met at her home and organized what started as a mission band. Mrs. Rev. F. C. Nau and Miss Hattie Ramsey were chosen as assistant leaders. For a time the group was affiliated with the National Society of King's Daughters, but later the society severed its connection with the larger organization and became definitely a local church group. Known for many years by its German name, "Koenig - Tochter", the organization faithfully supported the work of our local church and of our denomination, visiting the sick of the congregation and placing flowers upon the altar.

The King's Daughters finally disbanded on December 9, 1958, supporting the efforts of the Women's Guild. The motto of the organization was one that any loyal church organization could well adopt:

*"Look upward, not downward
Look forward, not backward
Look outward, not inward—
Lend a helping hand".*

The last officers of the King's Daughters were: Mrs. Alfred Wessel, president; Mrs. Lena Volkert, vice-president; Mrs. Damon Bishop, secretary; Mrs. Karl Renz, pledge secretary; and Mrs. William Brinkmeyer, treasurer.

MEMBERS IN CHRISTIAN SERVICE

MINISTERIAL SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN FULL TIME

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Rev. George Remagen — deceased
Rev. William Klein — deceased
Rev. William Kissel — deceased
Rev. Kent Chidester — Kenton, Ohio
Rev. Walter Guenther
Miss Nora Guenther — Missionary
Mrs. Elmer Zaugg — Missionary
Miss Lucy Wissman — Deaconess
Mr. George Urich — Missionary work among the Navajo Indians
Rev. Brice Chidester — Town & Country Parkway, St. Louis, Missouri
Rev. Richard Neumann, D.D. — Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

DAUGHTERS OF THE CONGREGATION MARRIED TO MINISTERS

Mrs. (Ruth Ann Rhoda) Darrell Loar
Mrs. (Lois Neumann) Charles Kline
Mrs. (Amelia Benny) Edwin Lineberger
Mrs. (Irma Benny) Don Newland
Mrs. (Ann VanMeter) Richard Chamberlain
Mrs. (Betty Hartman) Robert Hartenfeld

MEMBERS NOW IN ARMED FORCES

(as of July 1, 1963)

Don Baxter, Jr.	Tom Fletcher	Paul Rehn
Hugh Bucher	John Greenup	Robert Reiff
Harold Bitler	Alvin Grapner	Edwin Rhoades
Tom Burkholder	Kenneth Gratz, Jr.	Russ Wiessinger
Jack Engle	John Heil, Jr.	

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

THE RIGHT ARM OF THE CHURCH

From the very beginning, the Sunday School became the right arm of the church. In the early days the school met on Sunday afternoon and was largely attended by children.

On August 7, 1873, it is known that our Sunday School was firmly intrenched in the life of the congregation. On that date the school played host to a district convention of six German speaking Sunday Schools of Allen County, a gathering which was also attended by several of English Sunday School groups



SENIOR CHOIR

First Row (Left to Right) Mr. Ronald Vermillion, Mrs. John McNett, Rev. Richard P. Vitz, Mr. John Walters.

Second Row (Left to Right) Mrs. John Walters, Mrs. William Heinrich, Miss Karen Fifer, Mrs. Donald Coon, Miss Judy Becker, Miss Joan Staver, Mrs. Naomi Fifer, Mrs. Martha Schaefer.

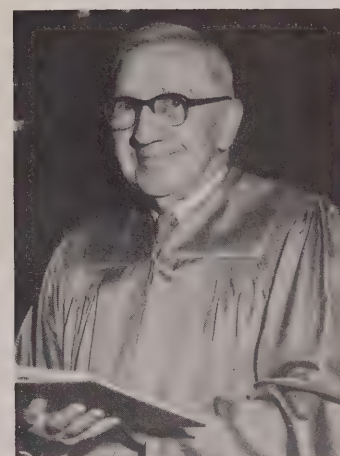
Third Row (Left to Right) Mrs. Mary Ellen Turner, Mrs. Richard P. Vitz, Mrs. Louis Meckstroth, Mrs. Elza Linton, Mrs. Burdette Vermillion, Miss Martha Fledderjohann, Mrs. Orlando Fledderjohann, Mrs. Arthur Orchard.

Fourth Row (Left to Right) Mr. Carl Rhoda, Mr. Carl W. Wolf, Mr. Burdette Vermillion, Mr. Walter King, Mr. David Walters, Mr. Charles Egbert, Mr. Robert Vitz, Mr. Joe Wiessinger.



DIRECTOR AND ORGANISTS

Left to Right: Mr. Ronald Vermillion, assistant organist; Mr. John S. Walters, choir director; and Mrs. John McNett, organist.



VETERAN CHOIR MEMBER
MR. CARL W. WOLF

of Lima. About one thousand persons marched to the old fair grounds on Bellefontaine Avenue for a grand festival and then assembled at the City Hall to listen to a concert. Rev. C. Pluess, pastor of our church, and Mr. Jacob Moser, Sunday School superintendent, had prominent parts in the service. The two small daughters of the superintendent, Emma Moser (who later became Mrs. Frederick G. Stueber) and Bertha Moser (who later became Mrs. W. H. Deakin) welcomed the group in German and English respectively.

Mr. Jacob Moser was the earliest Sunday School superintendent of record although it is likely that others had preceded him in the decade from 1863 to 1873. During the first several decades, Sunday School was conducted in the German language. During the pastorate of Rev. Christian Baum from 1888 to 1898, adult attendance was encouraged and from that time to the present men and women as well as children actively support this organization.

Until 1910 the Sunday School had to meet in the church auditorium and the congregation was happy to see a new annex erected in that year to accommodate the increasing needs of the school. On June 26, 1910, during the pastorate of Rev. Henry C. Schlueter the new addition adjoining the church building on the north was dedicated. The Sunday School structure was erected to harmonize with the church edifice. The first floor had a circular gallery with a total seating capacity of 175 persons. Rooms for the children's department were located in the basement which also contained a kitchen.

Sunday School cabinet minutes from September 2, 1910 are yet in existence. At a teacher's meeting held on that date, it was suggested by Rev. Schlueter that a record be kept of all business transacted. Superintendent William Renz presided at this meeting and Miss Clara M. Greding was designated recording secretary. A piano fund was also established and this serves to emphasize the place of music in the Sunday School as well as the church. In the year 1910 the total collections amounted to \$189.49 and the average attendance was 166. At that time it was the practice to have the consistory elect the superintendent but eventually teachers and officers made the choice. At the present time the entire Sunday School votes for its officers.

The use of the German language was not altogether abandoned in the School by 1912 inasmuch as the minutes disclosed that on June 3, 1912 two hundred copies of the hymnal "Exultant Praises" were ordered and it was also decided to have the best German songs printed and pasted in the new books.

On November 16, 1914 shortly after Mr. Fred W. Zeits assumed the superintendency, it was decided to adopt the cross and crown system as a means to increase attendance and also on that date a cradle roll was begun and teachers' training class formed. The first Sunday School orchestra was organized in 1915 when on

June 7th of that year, Mr. Oscar Frey reported that he had formed a group of ten pieces to provide appropriate music. The school at present does not have an orchestra although such organizations have reappeared at various times over the years.

On June 5, 1916 an athletic fund was started through institution of ice cream socials and sports programs commenced to be in evidence.

The Sunday School has been extremely fortunate in challenging able men and women of the church to assume roles of leadership. Early superintendents were Jacob Moser, Esias Cantieny and H. S. Prophet who for more than a third of a century devoted themselves to this task. Miss Hattie Ramseyer, Mr. D. R. Cantieny, Mr. William Renz and also Dr. Frederick G. Stueber officiated for brief periods. Outstanding in point of service was Mr. Fred W. Zeits who was Sunday School superintendent from 1913 to 1933 — a period of twenty consecutive years. From 1933 the following have served as superintendents: Mr. Clarence Frey, Sr.; Mr. Amos O. Long, Sr.; Mr. Harry Stevens; Mr. Loren Van Meter; Mr. Grover Neuman, Mr. Lee G. Van Blargan, Mr. Merle Myers, Mr. Wayne Bailey, Mr. Walter King, Mr. James King, and Mr. Herbert Krogh. Mr. Arthur Orchard is the present head of the Sunday School with Mrs. Ralph Burkholder as superintendent of the children's department.

Recognition services are observed each year for those having the best attendance records. In January of 1963, Miss Hattie Frail had an enviable record of twenty-four consecutive years.

With the completion of the new Educational Annex in 1963, more space has been provided for classrooms and social activities. Led by a competent staff of instructors, classes are held for all age groups and the future holds much promise for the Sunday School of First Church.

Sunday School Cabinet members for 1963 are as follows:

Arthur Orchard — Superintendent
Mrs. Louis Meckstroth — Asst. Superintendent
Mrs. Ralph Burkholder — Superintendent of Children's Department
Mrs. Dwight Becker — Secretary
Robert Staver — Treasurer

ADULT CLASSES

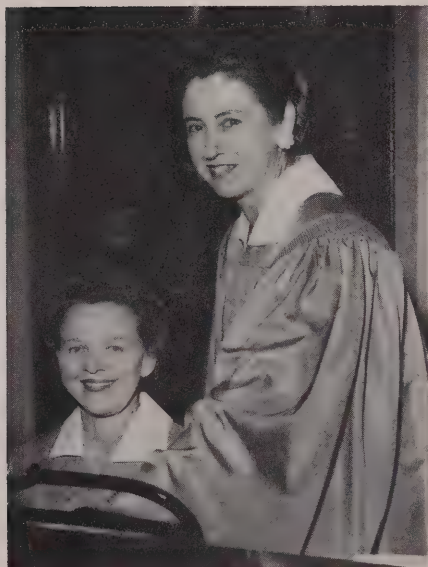
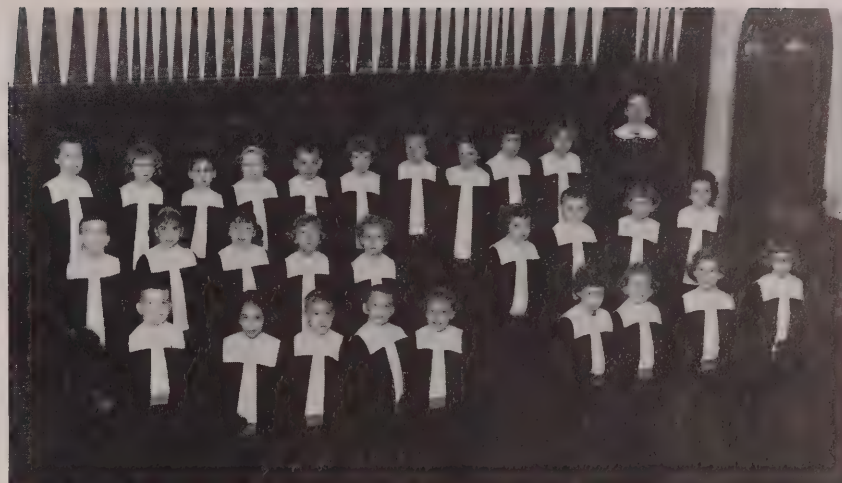
Bethany Class — Miss Martha Schaefer
Builders Class — Mr. Frank Spragg
Fidelis Class — Mrs. Russell Wiessinger
Mary Martha Classes — Mrs. Vernon Neuman
Forty Niner's Class — Mr. Don Snook
Gleaner's Class — Mrs. Vernon Neuman
Men's Bible Class — Rev. Richard P. Vitz
Choristers — Mr. Paul Kreher and Mr. Walter King
Pianists — Mrs. John McNett and Mrs. Mary Ellen Turner

JUNIOR CHOIR

First Row (Left to Right) Paul Offenbacher, Jill Huff, Jeffrey Jones, Gary Cole, Vickie Bailey, Patricia Brooks, Joyce Stevens, Cheryl Roberts, Julia McDonald.

Second Row (Left to Right) Donald Offenbacher, Ann Elizabeth Smith, Jeanella Killian, Emmyjo Killian, Kim Lusk, Cathy Naas, Greg Clark, Laura Welker, Anita Offenbacher.

Third Row (Left to Right) Mrs. Thomas Laut, Lois McDonald, Deborah Howard, Karen Shaw, Ricky Bailey, Patricia McNett, Susan Schwark, Pamela Huff, Becky Brutzer, Darla Kuck, Mrs. Richard Vitz.



DIRECTRESS AND ACCOMPANIST

Left to Right: Mrs. Thomas Laut, accompanist and Mrs. Richard P. Vitz, directress.

Visual Education — Mr. Louis Meckstroth and Mr. Don
Library Committee — Mrs. Phyllis Leech
David Fledderjohann and Steve Schwark
Herold

SENIOR HIGH CLASSES

9th and 10th Grades — Mr. Paul Kreher
11th and 12th Grades — Mr. Robert McFarland
Pianist — Mr. Ronald Vermillion

INTERMEDIATE CLASSES

7th Grade — Mr. William Weick
8th Grade — Mrs. Albert Arnett
Pianist — Miss Judy Becker

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Leader of Devotions — Mr. Larry Forwerck
Pianist — Mrs. O. E. Fledderjohann
4th Grade — Mr. Ray Burkholder
5th Grade — Mrs. Tom Offenbacher
6th Grade — Mrs. Florenz Clausung

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Leader of Devotions — Mrs. Ralph Burkholder
Pianist — Miss Mathilda Benny
1st Grade — Mrs. Naomi Fifer
2nd Grade — Mrs. Louise Norton
3rd Grade — Mrs. Leonard Rothe

KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Fred Tschanz
Mrs. Arnold Patrick
Mrs. Ralph Nussbaum

BEGINNERS

Mrs. G. E. Herold
Mrs. William Heinrich

NURSERY

Mrs. Don Staver
Mrs. Tom Haines
Mrs. Robert A. Jones

CRADLE ROLL

Mrs. Kenneth Denison
Mrs. Katherine Steiner

HOME DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Arthur Gerstenlauer
Mrs. Charles Stilgenbauer

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

The Men's Bible Class is traditionally taught by the pastor and has been in existence for many years, having been organized as such about 1890. Throughout the years it has helped to provide leadership for the Sunday School and church. It sponsors the annual father and son banquet and supports many worthy organizations such as the Children's Home, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, The Home for the Aged, Upper Sandusky, Ohio, Lima Rescue Home and other deserving groups. It has a membership in excess of fifty.

Officers for 1963 are: Mr. Vernon Neuman, president; Mr. Arnold Patrick, vice-president; and Mr. Edward Woll, secretary-treasurer. Rev. Richard P. Vitz is the present teacher and when occasion requires several members serve as acting instructors.

THE GLEANER'S CLASS

The Gleaner's Class was organized in 1910 as a mother and daughter class and remained as such until 1915 when the daughters formed their own class. Mrs. Catherine Lyle was the first teacher. Other teachers included Miss Freda Feickert, Mrs. Tillman W. Hoernemann, Mrs. Reuben J. Schroer, Mrs. Edward Perry, Mrs. William Holtkamp and the present instructor is Mrs. Vernon Neuman, the latter having served the class for the past twenty-six years.

Projects sponsored by the class include mission work, the Children's Home, Home for the Aged, and work among the lepers.

The class motto is "Service for Others." The oldest member of the class is Mrs. Edward Kissner.

Gleaner's Class officers for 1963 are: Mrs. Roscoe Sharp, president; Mrs. Carrie Linton, vice-president; and Mrs. Arthur Gerstenlauer, secretary-treasurer.

THE MARY MARTHA CLASS

The Mary Martha Class came into existence almost half a century ago when a charter was granted on December 11, 1915 during the pastorate of Rev. Tillman W. Hoernemann. Miss Ella Eysenbach was designated teacher and served in this capacity for many years. Of the original charter members, the following are still active in the work of the organization: The Misses Hattie Frail, Bertha Frail, Louise Eysenbach, Irene Rhoda, Frieda Braun and Bertha Hoegner. Mrs. George Leppla served as teacher for twenty years — from 1940 to 1960. Mrs. Vernon Neuman is the present teacher of the class.

Throughout the years, The Mary Martha Class has been most active in its support of the work of our missions. Projects have included contributing to the education of Lena Big Soldier at the Winnebago Indian Mission; she later became a missionary.

Locally, the class financed the cost of furnishing a room at



CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 1963

First Row (Left to Right) Dianna Neidemire, Susan Fifer, Jeanette Linton, Pamela Cummings, Rebecca Niemeyer, Rev. Richard P. Vitz, Judy Schwark, Alice Offenbacher, Karen Staver, Christene Winegardner, Marianne Vitz, Linda Weick.

Second Row (Left to Right) Edward Becker, Richard Meihls, Tom Riegle, Steve Norton, David Brutzer.

Third Row (Left to Right) Walter Kincaid, Barry Flack, Tom Fairburn, Terry Burkholder, Richard Heaston, Richard Walters, Robert Peters, Terry Scott, Jack Schlosser, Robert Howard.

the time Lima Memorial Hospital was built. It presented to our church an American flag and a Christian flag with standards and had them placed in the sanctuary. It donated the new piano in the children's department of our Sunday School, helped to provide silverware, dishes, and kitchen equipment, and contributed to the program of our church library. At the present time this group is continuing a project started five years ago of contributing to the support of an adoptive orphan in a Christian mission school in Hong Kong, China. Annual bake sales and ice cream socials have been sponsored by the class in order to raise funds for worthy purposes.

At the present time, there are thirty members in the class. Officers for 1963 are: Mrs. Leota Heffner, president; Miss Hazel Dickman, vice-president; Miss Marguerite Dickman, secretary; and Mrs. Helene Ridenour, treasurer.

THE BETHANY CLASS

Up until approximately three years ago, the Bethany Class was known as the Triangle Class. For many decades it has assumed an important role in the life of the Sunday School and the ladies belonging to the class have contributed much to the cause of the school and the church. Many members of this class have served as teachers in the children's department. Special offerings are taken and gifts made to worthy causes. Some of the former teachers include Mrs. William Kinzer, Mrs. Herman Myers, and Miss Madelyn Euler. The present teacher is Miss Martha Schaefer, assisted by Mrs. James Leech.

Officers of the Bethany Class for 1963 are: Mrs. James Leech, president; Mrs. William Kreher, vice-president; and Mrs. Ralph Burkholder, treasurer.

FIDELIS CLASS

Approximately twenty-five years ago the Excelsior Class, taught by Mrs. Amer Whelpley, composed of high school girls and the Graduation Class, a class taught by Mrs. Carl Emrick, composed of young women, merged calling themselves, The Fidelis Class, "Fidelis" meaning "Faithful". Mrs. Florenz Clausing was the first teacher of this group. Several ladies have acted as substitute teachers. Mrs. Russell Wiessinger is the present teacher of this class following Mrs. Perry Killian who taught about three years prior to Mrs. Wiessinger.

The class is well attended but one of the outstanding attendance records is held by Mrs. Gerald (Dorothy) Rothe who is reported to have missed very little in her attendance at class meetings and Sunday School since her confirmation.

The Fidelis Class meets monthly in fellowship being actively engaged in mission and benevolent causes for the work of God's Kingdom. It has participated in various projects such as spaghetti

suppers and rummage sales and has made contributions to many worthy projects. There are about fifty-eight members at present and class officers for 1963 include: Mrs. Harold Schaublin and Mrs. William F. Smith, co-presidents; Mrs. Charles Zerante, secretary; and Mrs. Perry Killian, treasurer.

BUILDER'S CLASS

The Builder's Class is by far the largest class of the Sunday School, having a membership of eighty-nine. It was organized on February 3, 1946 with Mr. Carl Wellman as the first president and Attorney John F. Emans as the first teacher. Six years later Mr. Emans retired as teacher and Mr. Frank Spragg has served as instructor ever since.

Class meetings are held monthly with picnics replacing the regular meetings in the summer. One of these picnics is usually held at the Home for the Aged at Upper Sandusky. An annual **Fun Night** in November and a **Children's Christmas Party** in December are among the events looked forward to each year.

Since 1948, the class has adopted a mother and father from the Home for the Aged. Spending money, gifts and cards are sent. Birthday and Christmas cards are mailed to all residents each year. The class now uses as money raising projects for worthy causes such events as the summer supper, bake sale and similar activities sponsored by the class. Philanthropic projects include the Mizpah Mission, Children's Home, Home for the Aged, the missionary work of James Foulkes, home and foreign missions, Heidelberg College, Tempel Hills Devotion Foundation, and the building fund of our church.

Officers of the Builder's Class for 1963 are: Mr. Tom Offenbacher, president; Mr. Don McDonald, vice-president; Mrs. Frank Spragg secretary; and Mr. James Offenbacher, treasurer.

THE FORTY-NINER'S CLASS

This class was organized on December 15, 1958, and has been active in furthering the interests of the church. Some of the projects undertaken by this group are the sponsoring of a chili supper and the centennial church calender. It has also engaged in collecting bottle caps and using the funds derived for worthy causes. The class has also adopted a girl in Korea.

The Forty-Niner's class at present has about twenty members and the officers for 1963 are: Mr. Larry Clark, president; Mr. Terry Clark vice-president; and Mrs. Don R. Snook, secretary-treasurer.

Mr. Don R. Snook serves as teacher for the group.



THE FATHER AND SON BANQUET (1963)

The Father and Son Banquet usually held each February is sponsored by the Men's Brotherhood, an organization which includes all men of the church.



THE MOTHER AND DAUGHTER BANQUET (1963)

The annual Mother and Daughter Banquet usually held each May is sponsored by the Women's Guild, an organization which includes all women of the church.



THE LADIES AID SOCIETY
OLDEST ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

Founded January 3, 1867

First Row (Left to Right) Mrs. Bertha Hall, Mrs. Donald Coon, Mrs. William Herold, Mrs. Arnim Woll, Mrs. Roy Gierhart, Mrs. Mary Perry, Miss Hazel Dickman, Mrs. Anna Walker, Miss Elsie Siebert, Mrs. Edward Kissner, Mrs. Ella Crumrine, Miss Mamie Fogt, Mrs. Herbert Blymeyer.

Second Row (Left to Right) Mrs. Lillian Gerstenlauer, Mrs. Dorothy Pratt, Mrs. Vernon Neuman, Mrs. William Gettinger, Mrs. Richard Dole, Mrs. Daniel Anthony, Mrs. Mary Headapohl, Mrs. Theresa Schmidt, Mrs. Emma Schaublin, Mrs. Lillian Hites.

Third Row (Left to Right) Rev. Richard Vitz, Mrs. Mary Binkley, Mrs. Gus Mohler, Mrs. Karl Friedlin, Mrs. Laura Kempf, Mrs. Lydia Stilgenbauer, Mrs. Carrie Linton, Mrs. August Lange, Mrs. Otto Gehm, Mrs. Helmut Gehm, Mrs. Martha Garmhausen.

Fourth Row (Left to Right) Mrs. Richard Vitz, Mrs. Nora Miller, Mrs. Walter Miller, Mrs. Emil Brutzer, Mrs. Gus Wolf, Mrs. Clifford Newland, Mrs. Oscar Koch, Mrs. William Haines, Mrs. Nell Jennings, Mrs. Roscoe Sharp.



THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Founded November 7, 1904

First Row (Seated Left to Right) Mrs. John McNett, Mrs. Richard Vitz, Miss Martha Schaefer, Mrs. Ralph Burkholder, Mrs. Marvin Bucher, Mrs. Donald Coon, Miss Anna Klein, Mrs. Calvin Rable.

Second Row (Standing Left to Right) Rev. Richard P. Vitz, Mrs.

Donald Crosson, Mrs. Roger Page, Mrs. Robert Nusbaum, Mrs. Donald Herold, Mrs. Douglas Hadding, Mrs. G. E. Herold, Mrs. Richard Dole, Mrs. Carl Rhoda, Mrs. Daniel Anthony, Mrs. William Kreher, Mrs. Lillian Gerstenlauer, Mrs. Lydia Stilgenbauer, Mrs. Grover Neumann, Mrs. Arnim Woll, Mrs. Ben Green, Mrs. Martha Garmhausen.



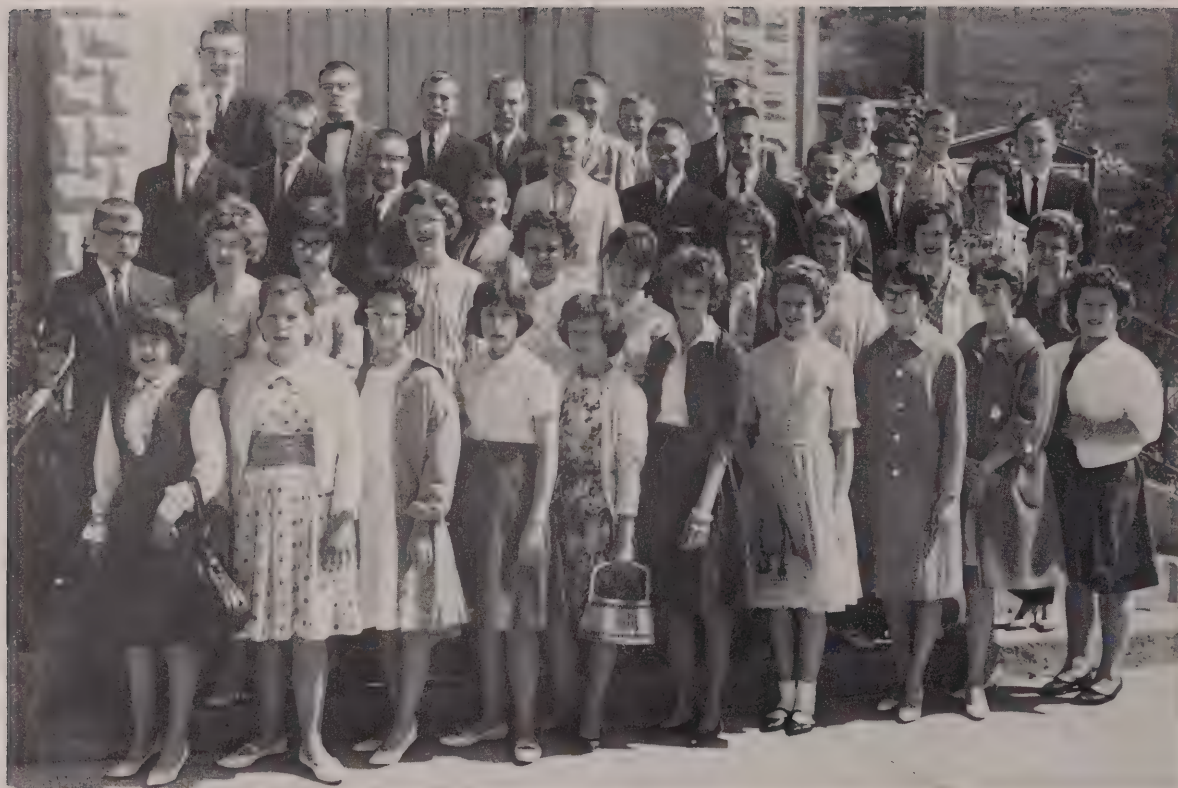
THE SENIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

First Row (Left to Right) Roger Zerante, Margie Nusbaum, Kathy Kincaid, Dianna Riegle, Barbara Herold, Barbara Rothe, Cheryl Welsh, Anita Staver.

Second Row (Left to Right) Ronnie Vermillion, Eugene Patrick, Kathleen Unger, Judy Becker, Joan Staver, Sandra Weick, Kathy Kuck.

Third Row (Left to Right) Steve Clark, Tom Offenbacher, Don Rumer, Bruce Burkholder, Mrs. Paul Kreher (Advisor), Mr. Paul Kreher (Advisor).

Fourth Row (Left to Right) Bob Vitz, David Fledderjohann, Paul Leppla, Larry Forwerk.



THE JUNIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

First Row (Left to Right) Diane Sterling, Betsy Green, Sandra Weick, Jacqueline Musser, Eileen Booher, Candy Boegel, Kathy Phillips, Marianne Vitz, Karen Staver, Mrs. James Kincaid.

Second Row (Left to Right) David Lutz, Kathy Lange, Jane Orchard, Ellen Smith, Dianna Neidemire, Jeannette Louise Linton, Connie Musser, Nanette Frey, Rebecca Niemeyer, Mrs. Arthur Orchard.

Third Row (Left to Right) Bob Eversman, Dennis Spragg, Keith Tussing, Jim Kincaid, Tom Riegle, Steve Norton, David Brutzer, Robert Frost, Edward Becker, Mrs. Tom Offenbacher.

Fourth Row, (Left to Right) Tom Peters, Robert Peters, Donnie Vermillion, George Rable, Cullen Smith, Jeff Clark, Louis Meckstroth, Terry Burkholder, Richard Offenbacher, Jack Schlosser.



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CABINET

First Row (Left to Right) Mr. Arthur Orchard, Mrs. William Heinrich, Mrs. Ed Herold, Miss Martha Schaefer, Mrs. Kenneth Denison, Mrs. Phyllis Leech, Mrs. Ralph Burkholder, Miss Judy Becker, Mr. Ronald Vermillion, Mrs. Albert Arnett.

Second Row (Left to Right) Rev. Richard P. Vitz, Mr. Don Snook, Mrs. Naomi Fifer, Mrs. Orlando Fledderjohann, Mrs. Mary Ellen Turner, Mrs. Dwight Becker, Mrs. Russell Wiessinger, Mrs. Florenz Clausing.

Third Row (Left to Right) Mrs. John McNett, Mrs. Tom Offenbacher, Mrs. Lydia Stilgenbauer, Mrs. Lillian Gerstenlauer, Mrs. Vernon Neuman, Mr. Ray Burkholder, Mr. William Weick, Mr. Walter King.

Fourth Row (Left to Right) Mr. Larry Forwerk, Mr. Frank Spragg, Mr. Robert Staver, Mr. Louis Meckstroth, Mrs. Paul Kreher, Mrs. Louis Meckstroth.



THE MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

First Row (Left to Right) Kermit Niemeyer, Charles Naas, August Lange, Oscar Koch, Orlando E. Fledderjohann, Arnold Patrick, Edward Woll, Roy Ward.

Second Row (Left to Right) Robert Hardesty, Oswin Luginbuhl,

Florenz Clausing, Grover Neuman, Loren Van Meter, William F. Smith, Robert Eversman, Rev. Richard P. Vitz.

Third Row (Left to Right) Ralph Scheer, Walter King, Ralph Burkholder, Lee G. Van Blargan, Carl Rhoda, Leonard Rothe, Waldo Courtad, Vernon Neuman, William Herold.



THE GLEANERS CLASS

First Row (Left to Right) Mrs. Gus Wolf, Mrs. Nora Miller, Mrs. Lydia Stilgenbauer, Mrs. William Herold, Mrs. G. E. Herold, Mrs. Carrie Linton.

Second Row (Left to Right) Mrs. John Wauben, Mrs. Martha Garmhausen, Mrs. Lillian Gerstenlauer, Mrs. Vernon Neuman, Mrs. Roscoe Sharp, Mrs. Dorothy Pratt.

Third Row Rev. Richard P. Vitz.



THE MARY MARTHA CLASS

First Row (Left to Right) Rev. Richard P. Vitz, Mrs. Arnim Woll, Miss Hazel Dickman, Mrs. Norma Kessler, Miss Louise Eysenbach, Miss Laura Easterly, Mrs. Leota Heffner.

Second Row (Left to Right) Miss Frieda Braun, Miss Lillian Braun, Mrs. Roy Ward, Mrs. Vernon Neuman, Mrs. Mary Perry, Mrs. Carl Rhoda, Mrs. Ida Wellman, Miss Irene Rhoda, Mrs. Katherine Steiner, Mrs. Delila Bryan.

Third Row (Left to Right) Miss Florence Smith, Miss Marguerite Dickman, Miss Bertha Hoegner, Mrs. George Leppla, Mrs. Richard Vitz, Mrs. Florence Stelzer, Mrs. Grover Neumann, Mrs. C. H. Mast, Miss Bertha Frail, Miss Hattie Frail, Miss Norma Easterly.



THE BETHANY CLASS

First Row (Left to Right) Mrs. Clara Morris, Mrs. Alfred Hoff, Miss Martha Schaefer, Mrs. Fred Patrick, Mrs. Ralph Burkholder.

Second Row (Left to Right) Mrs. Charles Mumper, Miss Alvina Woll, Mrs. Phyllis Leech, Rev. Richard P. Vitz, Mrs. Lee G. Van Blargan, Mrs. William Haines, Mrs. Nell Jennings.



THE FIDELIS CLASS

First Row (Left to Right) Miss Mathilda Benny, Mrs. Dwight Becker, Mrs. Marvin Bucher, Mrs. Russell Wiessinger, Mrs. Ralph Schaublin, Mrs. A. R. Shellenberger, Mrs. Harold Garmhausen, Mrs. Perry Killian, Mrs. Louise Norton.

Second Row (Left to Right) Mrs. Leonard Rothe, Mrs. Arnold Patrick, Mrs. Robert Eversman, Mrs. Thomas Laut, Mrs. Damon Bishop, Mrs. Charles Zerante, Mrs. A. L. Kennedy, Mrs. Robert Hardesty, Mrs. Ralph Scheer.

Third Row (Left to Right) Mrs. Dorothy Rothe, Mrs. Florenz Clausing, Mrs. Lillian Hites, Mrs. Donald Crosson, Mrs. Richard Vitz, Mrs. Charles Naas, Mrs. Walter King, Mrs. William Heinrich.

Fourth Row (Left to Right) Mrs. Harold Schaublin, Mrs. Fred Tschanz, Mrs. Daniel Miller, Mrs. Albert Arnett, Mrs. Emmett Setters, Mrs. Harold Davis, Mrs. Clarence Frey, Jr., Mrs. William Smith.



THE BUILDERS CLASS

First Row (Left to Right) Mr. Ben Green and Gary Lee, Mr. Wayne Bailey, Mr. Don Staver, Mr. Roger Page and Arthur, Mr. Paul Riegler, Mr. Burdette Vermillion, Mr. Don Stevens, Mr. Robert Tussing, Mr. Leo Scott, Mr. Gerald Clark, Mr. Don Hauserman, Mr. Donald McDonald.

Second Row (Left to Right) Mr. Art Orchard, Mr. Frank Spragg, Mr. John Emans, Mrs. Frank Spragg, Mrs. Paul Riegler, Mrs. Roger Rarey, Mrs. Robert P. Jones, Mrs. Arthur Brutzer, Mrs. James Offenbacher, Mrs. Don Herold, Mrs. Claude Harrison, Mrs. Eugene Lusk, Mrs. Donald Rumer, Mr. Paul Kreher, Mr. Claude Harrison, Mr. Herbert Rable.

Third Row (Left to Right) Mrs. Don Hauserman, Mrs. Wayne Bailey, Mrs. Don Stevens, Mrs. Robert Tussing, Mrs. Art Orchard, Mrs. Naomi Fifer, Mrs. Robert Staver, Mrs. Paul Wolfe.

Fourth Row (Left to Right) Mrs. Don Riner, Mrs. Roger Page, Mrs. James Kincaid, Mrs. David Homan, Mrs. Ralph Cole, Mrs. Delbert Scheer, Mrs. John McNett, Mrs. Ray Whitling, Mrs. Ben Green, Mrs. Amos Long, Mrs. Andrew Riemesch, Mr. John McNett, Mr. Delbert Scheer, Mr. Albert Arnett.

Fifth Row (Left to Right) Mrs. Richard Vitz, Mrs. Leo Scott, Mrs. Burdette Vermillion, Mrs. Gerald Clark, Mrs. Louis Meckstroth, Mrs. William Weick, Mrs. Donald McDonald, Mrs. Miles Toy, Jr., Mr. Billy Welker, Mr. Robert Staver.

Sixth Row (Left to Right) Mr. David Homan, Mr. Eugene Lusk, Mr. Ray Whitling, Mr. Ralph Cole, Mr. Louis Meckstroth, Mrs. Herbert Rable, Mr. Don Riner, Mr. Miles Toy, Jr., Mr. James Offenbacher, Mr. Tom Offenbacher, Mr. Arthur Brutzer, Mr. Jack Moyer.



THE FORTY NINERS CLASS

First Row (Left to Right) Carole Bates, Gloria King, Pat Zerante, Louise Leppla.

Second Row (Left to Right) Robert Snook, Martha Fledderjohann, Mrs. David Benny, Mrs. Don Snook, Don Snook with

Kimberly Snook, David Benny with Susan Benny.

Third Row (Left to Right) Terry Clark, Joe Heil, Rex Burkholder, Tom Zerante, John Laut, Larry Becker.



THE NURSERY-BEGINNERS DEPARTMENT

First Row (Left to Right) Jody Gruebmeier, Susan Flack, Deborah Herold, Jeffrey Bailey.

Second Row (Left to Right) Kim Herge, Michael Musser, Melanie Jones, Tamah Page, Lisa Meckstroth.

Third Row (Left to Right) Wendy Moyer, Ricky Coon, Paul Tussing, Raymond Brooks, Linda Brutzer, Danny Heaston, Stephen Bailey, Danny Cole.

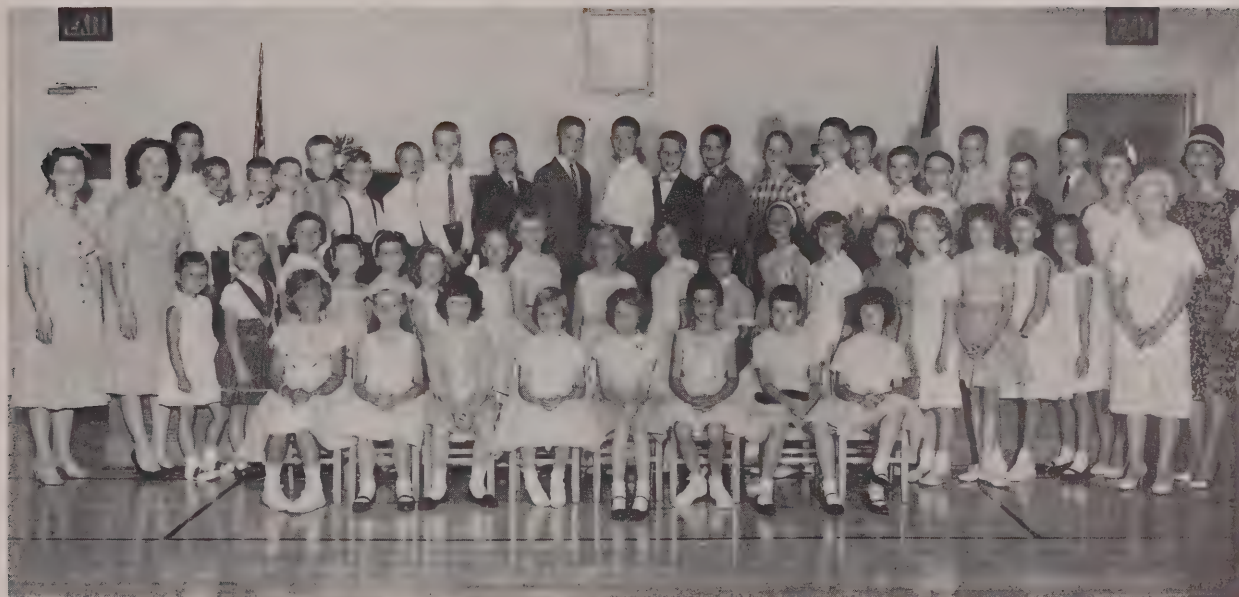
Fourth Row (Left to Right) Mrs. William Heinrich, Mrs. G. E. Herold, Mrs. Don Staver, Mrs. Thomas Haines.



THE KINDERGARTEN DEPARTMENT

First Row (Left to Right) Kurt Hoff, Cherie Spragg, Mary Catherine Jones, Paulette Davis, Barbara Wolff, Nancy Coon, Julie Meckstroth, Ann Haines, David McNett, Tommy Toy.

Second Row (Left to Right) Mrs. Arnold Patrick, Bryan Beggin, Scott Homan, David Lusk, Terry Kirkpatrick, Timmy Newland, Jimmy McDonald, Kevin Jones, Ronnie Wolff, Tony Dellaidotti, Bobby Nusbaum, Mrs. Lois Tschanz.



THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

First Row (Left to Right) Emily Jo Killian, Cathy Bowden, Patty Brooks, Barbara Vitz, Cheryl McDonald, Gayle Setters, Kathleen Heaston, Teena Coon.

Second Row (Left to Right) Karen Kincaid, Jill Green, Cynthia Wolf, Sharon Stevens, Karen Stevens, Debbie Rumer, Lee Ann Homan, Kay Heinrich, Anita Tussing, Debbie Phillips, Anna Mae Jones, Jan Vermillion, Becky McNett, Joyce Stevens, Kimberly Lusk, Shelley Lange, Penny Jo Setters, Sherry Staver.

Third Row (Left to Right) Miss Mathilda Benny, Mrs. Naomi Fifer, Jennifer Kuck, Robert A. Jones, Jr., Timothy Boothby, Tracy Staver, Jonathan Clark, Edward Hower, Tom Sterling, Terry Boothby, Gary Cole, Mark Davis, Jack Boothby, Steve Bowden, Elza Linton III, Jeffery Jones, Jeff Harrison, Charles Bates, Gregg Sterling, Oren Long, Billy Degen, Terry Coon, Mark Nusbaum, Mrs. Isabelle Rothe, Mrs. Mabel Burkholder, Mrs. Louise Norton.



THE JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

First Row (Left to Right) Larry Forwerck, James Frey, Robert Phillips, Michel Riner, Robert Tussing.

Second Row (Left to Right) Mrs. Rosemary Offenbacher, Alice Offenbacher, Paul Offenbacher, Billy Kirkpatrick, John Rodgers, Donavon Rarey, Anieta Offenbacher, Joy Carmean, Donald Offenbacher, Dennis Rumer, Kim Van Meter, David Cole, Thomas

Orchard, Marcia Flack, Dawn Spragg, Joyce Scott, Gregg Clark, Mrs. Florenz Clausing.

Third Row (Left to Right) Fanita Joseph, Iila Dellaidotti, Christine Lentz, Paula Lange, Rhonda Weick, Jeanella Killian, Joyce Linton, Betty Degen, Ann Smith, Alicia Arnett, Kathryn Koch, Becky Brutzer, Patricia McNett, Janet Linton, Ray Burkholder.

MEMBERSHIP ROLL

(As of July 1, 1963)

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mrs. Clara Allen | Mrs. A. N. Bruzelius | Miss Hazel Dickman | Mr. & Mrs. Otto Gehm |
| Mrs. Calvin Althaus | Mrs. Delila Bryan | Miss Marguerite Dickman | Mr. & Mrs. Fred Gehm |
| Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Altstetter | Mrs. Louis Bryan | Mr. Merlin Diehl | Mrs. Lillian Gerstenlauer |
| Mrs. Daniel Anthony | Dr. & Mrs. R. S. Buchanan | Mr. & Mrs. Roland Dinkel | Mrs. & Mrs. Wm. Gettinger |
| Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Archer | Dr. Richard Buchanan | Miss Maryann Dinkel | Miss Margie Gettinger |
| Mr. & Mrs. Albert Arnett | Mr. & Mrs. Roy Buchanan | Mr. & Mrs. Harold Dolan | Mr. & Mrs. Roy Gierhart |
| Miss Lucille Atkinson | Mr. David Buchanan | Mrs. Richard Dole | Mrs. John Glendenning |
| Mrs. David Augsburg | Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Bucher | Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Draper | Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Gottfried |
| Mrs. Thelma Bailey | Mr. Hugh Bucher | Mrs. Margaret Dresback | Mr. Richard Gough |
| Mrs. Kay Bailey | Mr. & Mrs. Carl Bucher | Mrs. Floyd Duckro | Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Grapner |
| Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Bailey | Mrs. Wm. Buelow | Mrs. William Earnst | Mr. Alvin Grapner |
| Mrs. Richard Baker | Mrs. Catherine Burden | Miss Laura Easterly | Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Gratz |
| Mrs. Ethel Barkhurst | Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Burkholder | Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Egbert | Mr. Kenny Gratz |
| Mrs. Harold Barnhart | Mr. Tom Burkholder | Mr. Charles Egbert | Mr. Howard Gratz |
| Mr. Roger Barnhart | Mr. & Mrs. Ray Burkholder | Mrs. Frances Emans | Mr. & Mrs. Ben Green |
| Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Barringer | Mr. Bruce Burkholder | Mr. John Emans | Mr. Ben Green |
| Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Basinger | Mr. Rex Burkholder | Mrs. Augusta Emrick | Mrs. Kirby Greenup |
| Mr. & Mrs. Julius Bates | Mrs. Harry Burnside | Mr. Jack Engle | Miss Jane Greenup |
| Miss Carole Bates | Miss Barbara Buschor | Mrs. Robert Englekirk | Mr. John Greenup |
| Mr. & Mrs. Donald Baxter, Sr. | Dr. R. E. Bushong | Miss Madelyn Fuller | Mrs. Mabel Griebing |
| Mr. Don Baxter, Jr. | Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Carr | Mrs. Garth Evans | Mrs. Elmer Griffiths |
| Mrs. John Baxter | Mrs. Dail Chenoweth | Mr. & Mrs. Robert Eversman | Mr. & Mrs. Owen Griffiths |
| Mr. & Mrs. Mark Baxter | Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Clark | Mr. Robert Eversman, Jr. | Mr. & Mrs. Harold Gruebmeier |
| Dr. & Mrs. Dwight Becker | Mr. Larry Clark | Miss Louise Eysenbach | Mr. Calvin Hadding |
| Miss Judy Becker | Mr. Terry Clark | Mrs. Robert Fairburn | Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Hadding |
| Mr. Larry Becker | Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clark | Mrs. Naomi Fifer | Mr. & Mrs. Michael Haeseker |
| Mr. & Mrs. Russell Becker | Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Clark | Miss Marcia Fifer | Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Haines |
| Mr. Tom Becker | Mr. Brice Clark | Miss Karen Fifer | Mr. & Mrs. William Haines |
| Mr. John Beggin | Miss Jo Ellen Clark | Mr. & Mrs. Ralph First | Mr. & Mrs. August Hakius |
| Mr. & Mrs. David Benny | Mr. Robert Clark | Miss Kay First | Mr. John Hakius |
| Mrs. Nick Benny | Mr. Stanley Clark | Mrs. Martha Fisher | Mr. Richard Hakius |
| Mr. Arnold Benny | Mr. & Mrs. Florenz Clausing | Mrs. Ruth Flack | Mrs. Bertha Hall |
| Miss Mathilda Benny | Mrs. H. F. Clausing | Mr. & Mrs. O. E. Fledderjohann | Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hardesty |
| Miss May Benroth | Mr. Kenneth Coats | Mr. David Fledderjohann | Miss Carol Hardesty |
| Miss Minnie Benroth | Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Cole | Miss Martha Fledderjohann | Mrs. Charles Hart |
| Mr. & Mrs. Damon Bishop | Mrs. Norman Conine | Mr. Jerry Fletcher | Mrs. C. F. Hartman |
| Mrs. Anna Mae Bitler | Miss Gertrude Conrad | Mr. Tom Fletcher | Mr. & Mrs. D. L. Hartman |
| Mr. Harold Bitler | Mrs. Donald Coon | Mr. Bill Fletcher | Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Hartman |
| Mr. Sam Bitler | Mr. & Mrs. James Coon | Mrs. Robert Floyd | Miss Rosella Haspel |
| Mrs. Herbert Blymeyer | Miss Mary Coon | Miss Mamie Fogt | Mrs. Jenny Haspel |
| Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Boegel | Mr. & Mrs. Roy Coon | Mr. & Mrs. Ritchey Forwerck | Mr. & Mrs. Don Hauserman |
| Mrs. E. H. Booher | Mrs. Earl Copus | Mr. Larry Forwerck | Mrs. Arthur Headapohl |
| Miss Dianne Booher | Mrs. Freda Cornwell | Mr. Charles Fox | Mrs. Richard Heaston |
| Mr. Jack Boothby | Dr. Dean Courtad | Mrs. Charles Fox | Miss Linda Heaston |
| Mr. & Mrs. Richard Boothby | Mr. Waldo Courtad | Miss Bertha Frail | Mrs. William Heaston |
| Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Born | Mr. Lindo Courtenay | Miss Hattie Frail | Mrs. Gustav Hebel |
| Mrs. James Bowden | Mr. Cloyd Cox | Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Frey, Jr. | Mrs. Leota Heffner |
| Mrs. Robert Bowden | Mrs. Don Crosson | Miss Nanette Frey | Mr. Paul Heffner |
| Mrs. John Bowler | Mrs. Ella Crumrine | Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Frey, Sr. | Mr. Clyde Hefner, Jr. |
| Mrs. Oscar Bowyer | Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Daniels | Mrs. Karl Friedlin | Miss Cheryl Hefner |
| Mr. Tom Body | Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Darling | Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Fuhrman | Miss Marsha Hefner |
| Mrs. W. H. Bradford | Mr. & Mrs. Robert Darnell | Mr. Ralph Fuhrman | Dr. Kermit Heidt |
| Mr. Albert Braun | Mrs. Harold Davis | Mrs. Aaron Fulton | Mr. Alton Heil |
| Miss Lillian Braun | Mrs. George Dawe | Mr. & Mrs. Harold Garmhausen | Mr. John Heil, Sr. |
| Miss Freida Braun | Mr. Charles Deaubler | Mr. Jim Garmhausen | Mr. Carl Heil |
| Mr. William Brinkmeyer | Mr. & Mrs. Fred Decker | Mrs. Martha Garmhausen | Mrs. Ernest Heil |
| Mr. & Mrs. Guy Brogan | Miss Nancy Degood | Mr. & Mrs. Helmut Gehm | Mr. & Mrs. Fred Heil |
| Mrs. Paul Brown | Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Denison | Mr. Edgar Gehm | Mr. Frederick G. Heil |
| Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Brutzer | Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Denison | Mr. Gerhard Gehm | Mr. John Heil, Jr. |
| Mr. & Mrs. Emil Brutzer | | | Miss Johann Heil |

MEMBERSHIP ROLL

Mr. Joe Heil
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Heil
 Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Heinrich
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Herold
 Miss Barbara Herold
 Mr. David Herold
 Mrs. G. E. Herold
 Mr. Fred Herold
 Mr. Robert Herold
 Mr. Raymond Herold
 Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Herold
 Mrs. Jewell Hinton
 Mr. Dennis Hinton
 Mrs. Mary Hitchen
 Mr. & Mrs. Clair Hites
 Miss Marjorie Hites
 Miss Bertha Hoegner
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Hoepfer
 Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Hoff
 Mr. & Mrs. James Hoff
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Holden
 Mrs. Norman Holler
 Mr. & Mrs. David Homan
 Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Huff
 Mr. & Mrs. Howard Irwin
 Mrs. Lester Jacobson
 Mrs. D. W. Jennings
 Mrs. Anna Jerold
 Miss Jean Ann Jewell
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry John
 Mr. Larry John
 Mr. Roy Johns
 Mr. & Mrs. Robt. A. Jones
 Mr. & Mrs. Robt. P. Jones, III
 Mr. & Mrs. William Jordan
 Mrs. Kenneth Joseph
 Mrs. Laura Kempf
 Mrs. Nellie Kendall
 Mrs. A. L. Kennedy
 Miss Janet Kennedy
 Mrs. Rex Kennedy
 Mr. Neal Kessler
 Mrs. Norma Kessler
 Mrs. William Kettler
 Mrs. Carolyn Killen
 Mr. Frank Killen
 Mr. & Mrs. Perry Killian
 Mr. & Mrs. James Kincaid
 Miss Kathy Kincaid
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Kincaid
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter King
 Miss Gloria King
 Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Kinzer
 Mrs. Edward Kissner
 Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Knerr
 Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Koch
 Mrs. Don Kocher
 Miss Janelle Kocher
 Miss Linda Kocher

Mr. Robert Koller
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Kolter
 Mrs. Wm. Kraemer
 Mrs. William Kreher
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kreher
 Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Krogh
 Miss Karen Krogh
 Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Kuck
 Miss Kathy Kuck
 Miss Doris Lambert
 Mrs. Jerry Landes
 Mr. & Mrs. Russell Landfair
 Mr. & Mrs. August Lange
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Lange
 Mr. Dennis Lange
 Miss Kathy Lange
 Miss Norma Lauefer
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Laut
 Mr. Daniel Laut
 Mr. John Laut
 Mr. & Mrs. Gene Lee
 Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Lee
 Mr. Gregory Lee
 Mrs. Phyllis Leech
 Mr. Alan Leech
 Mr. & Mrs. Merle Leedy
 Miss Marlene Leedy
 Mr. Marvin Leedy
 Mr. & Mrs. Roger Lehman
 Miss Anna Leidner
 Mr. Frank Leidner
 Mr. Richard Leidner
 Mr. & Mrs. George Leppla
 Mr. Ralph Leppla
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Leppla
 Miss Louise Leppla
 Mr. Paul Leppla, II
 Mrs. Clarence Lewis
 Miss Diane Lewis
 Mrs. Dale Lewis
 Miss Diane Lewis
 Mrs. Don Lewis
 Mrs. Carrie Linton
 Mr. & Mrs. Elza Linton
 Miss Jackie Linton
 Mr. & Mrs. O. D. Lisk
 Mr. & Mrs. Amos Long, Sr.
 Miss Miriam Long
 Mr. & Mrs. Amos Long, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. L. L. Longworth
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Lowry
 Miss Carol Lowry
 Mr. Larry Lowry
 Miss Lorilee Lowry
 Mrs. Alice Luchini
 Miss Jane Luchini
 Mrs. Homer Lugibill
 Mr. & Mrs. Oswin Luginbuhl
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Lusk

Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Lutz
 Miss Eleanor Lutz
 Mr. Rodney Lutz
 Mrs. Catherine Lyle
 Mr. Raymond Lyle
 Mrs. Wm. Lyons
 Mrs. Chester Mack
 Mrs. Inez Mager
 Mrs. Barbara Malahy
 Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Market
 Mrs. C. H. Mast
 Mrs. Warren Mathew
 Mr. & Mrs. John Matter
 Mr. John Matter
 Miss Flora Matter
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Maurer
 Miss Mary Maurer
 Mr. James Maurer
 Mrs. Francis May
 Miss Sheryl McCoy
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles McClurg
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerald McCune
 Mr. Larry McCune
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald McDonald
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert McDonald
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert McFarland
 Miss Golda McGeorge
 Mr. & Mrs. John McNett
 Mr. & Mrs. George Meacham
 Mr. James Meacham
 Mrs. Carl Means
 Mr. & Mrs. Louis Meckstroth
 Mr. Terry Meckstroth
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Meihls
 Mr. & Mrs. V. H. Mertz
 Miss Barbara Mertz
 Miss Susan Mertz
 Mr. Fred Meyer
 Mrs. Bertha Miller
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Miller
 Mr. Larry Miller
 Mrs. Nora Miller
 Mrs. Walter Miller
 Mr. Kenneth Moeller
 Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Moeller
 Mr. Gary Moeller
 Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Moeller
 Mr. Doyle Moeller
 Mr. Dale Moeller
 Mrs. Bertha Mohler
 Mr. Arnold Mohler, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Gustav Mohler
 Mrs. Lillian Moots
 Mrs. Clara Morris
 Mrs. Mabel Morris
 Mrs. Jack Morrison
 Mr. & Mrs. Victor Moser
 Miss Marie Muehlbauer
 Mrs. Charles Mumper

Mrs. Etta Murphy
 Mrs. R. E. Musser
 Miss Constance Musser
 Mrs. Herman Myers
 Mr. & Mrs. Merle Myers
 Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Myers
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Naas
 Miss Candee Naas
 Miss Linda Naas
 Mrs. Elsie Neely
 Mrs. Guy Neely
 Mr. & Mrs. Lester Neely
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Neely
 Mr. & Mrs. A. Neidemire
 Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Neuman
 Mr. & Mrs. Grover Neumann
 Mr. & Mrs. R. C. Newland
 Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Niemeyer
 Mr. & Mrs. Kermit Niemeyer
 Mrs. Louise Norton
 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Nusbaum
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Nusbaum
 Miss Margie Nusbaum
 Mrs. Charles O'Black
 Mr. & Mrs. James Offenbacher
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Offenbacher
 Mr. Tom Offenbacher
 Mrs. James O'Neill
 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Orchard
 Miss Jane Orchard
 Mrs. Clara Packer
 Mr. & Mrs. Roger Page
 Mr. Donald Pape
 Mrs. Roland Pape, Sr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Roland Pape, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Henry Pataky
 Mrs. Dona Pataky Reiff
 Miss Carol Patrick
 Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Patrick
 Mr. Eugene Patrick
 Mrs. Fred Patrick
 Mrs. Mary Perry
 Mr. Norwood Perry
 Mr. Ruhlin Perry
 Miss Emma Peter
 Miss Lena Peter
 Mr. & Mrs. Dale Peters
 Mr. Tom Peters
 Mrs. Eva Peters
 Mr. & Mrs. George Phillips
 Mr. & Mrs. James Phillips
 Mr. Kurt Pietrushock
 Mr. & Mrs. Harold Plankell
 Mrs. Dorothy Pratt
 Mr. & Mrs. Vern Pugsley
 Mrs. Celestine Purnell
 Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Rable
 Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Rable
 Mr. C. A. Ralston
 Mr. & Mrs. Roger Rarey

MEMBERSHIP ROLL

- Mrs. Frank Reed
 Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Reese
 Mrs. E. H. Rehn
 Mr. & Mrs. Leelan Rehn
 Miss Karen Rehn
 Mr. Paul Rehn
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Reiff
 Miss Christine Reiff
 Mr. David Reiff
 Mr. Robert Reiff
 Mrs. Karl Renz
 Mrs. William Renz
 Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Rhoades
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl Rhoda
 Miss Irene Rhoda
 Mrs. Chester Ridenour
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Riegler
 Miss Dianna Riegler
 Mr. Rodney Riegler
 Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Riemesch
 Mr. & Mrs. John Riemesch
 Mrs. Amelia Riker
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Riner
 Mr. Harvey Roberts
 Mr. & Mrs. William Rodgers
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Roediger
 Mr. J. L. Rose
 Mrs. Gerald Rothe
 Miss Barbara Rothe
 Mr. Alan Rothe
 Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Rothe
 Mrs. Dora Rower
 Miss Livonia Rower
 Mrs. John Roy
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Rumer
 Mr. Donald Rumer, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. William Rummel
 Mrs. Stella Russell
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rypkema
 Miss Martha Schaefer
 Miss Irene Schaefer
 Mrs. Emma Schaublin
 Mr. & Mrs. Harold Schaublin
 Miss Sara Schaublin
 Mr. David Schaublin
 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Schaublin
 Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Scheer
 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Scheer
 Mr. Tom Scheer
 Miss Donelda Schlosser
 Mr. & Mrs. Gene Schlosser
 Miss Ella Schmidt
 Mr. & Mrs. Landes Schmidt
 Mrs. Theresa Schmidt
 Mr. & Mrs. Clark Schwark
 Mr. Steve Schwark
 Mr. Ted Schwark
 Mr. George Schwertfager
 Mr. & Mrs. Leo Scott
 Mrs. Raymond Seitz
 Mrs. Emmett Setters
 Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Settemire
 Mrs. Charles Shade
 Mrs. James Shafer
 Mrs. Roscoe Sharp
 Mr. & Mrs. Ora Shaw
 Mr. Dean Shaw
 Mr. & Mrs. A. R. Shellenberger
 Mrs. Eunice Shinaberry
 Mrs. Robert Shutt
 Miss Elsie Siebert
 Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Simpson
 Mr. & Mrs. Julius Simons
 Mr. & Mrs. John Skobler
 Mrs. Bertha Smith
 Miss Florence Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Smith
 Mrs. Robert Smith
 Mr. Charles Smith
 Mrs. Wm. Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. William Smith
 Miss Ellen Smith
 Miss Elsie Snider
 Miss Ida Snider
 Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Snook
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Snook
 Mr. Edward Snook
 Mr. Robert Snook
 Mr. & Mrs. Don R. Snook
 Mrs. Edward Snook
 Mr. Herbert Snook
 Mr. & Mrs. Lester Snook
 Mr. Louis Snook
 Mr. Robert Snook
 Mr. & Mrs. William Snook
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sortland
 Miss Sue Sousz
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sparrow
 Miss Linda Sparrow
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Spragg
 Mr. Dennis Spragg
 Mrs. Stanley Sproul
 Mrs. John Staufer
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Staver
 Miss Anita Staver
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Staver
 Miss Joan Staver
 Mrs. Katherine Steiner
 Dr. Donald Steiner
 Mr. Phares Steiner
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl Stelzer
 Miss Clara Stelzer
 Mrs. Florence Stelzer
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Stevens
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Stevens
 Mrs. Charles Stilgenbauer
 Mr. Arthur Stimmel
 Miss Evelyn Styer
 Mrs. Jack Switzer
 Mrs. Rose Szekely
 Mrs. Elizabeth Tarbutton
 Dr. & Mrs. Roger Tecklenberg
 Mr. Steve Tecklenberg
 Mr. & Mrs. Fleet Thomas
 Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Thompson
 Mr. Miles Toy, Sr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Miles Toy, Jr.
 Mrs. Fred Tschanz
 Mr. John Tschanz
 Mrs. Cecil Turner
 Mrs. Mary Ellen Turner
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Tussing
 Mr. Keith Tussing
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Unger
 Mr. David Unger
 Miss Kathleen Unger
 Mr. & Mrs. Lee Van Blargan
 Mrs. Lyda Van Luven
 Mr. & Mrs. Loren Van Meter
 Miss Sue Van Meter
 Mr. Richard Van Meter
 Mr. & Mrs. Burdette Vermillion
 Mr. Ronald Vermillion
 Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Vinson
 Rev. & Mrs. Richard Vitz
 Mr. Robert Vitz
 Mrs. Anna Walker
 Mr. & Mrs. John Walters
 Mr. David Walters
 Mrs. Lura Walther
 Mr. & Mrs. Roy Ward
 Mrs. Penell Watkins
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Watters
 Mrs. John Wauben
 Mrs. William Wauben
 Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Weaver
 Mr. & Mrs. William Weick
 Miss Sandra Weick
 Miss Cheryl Welch
 Mr. & Mrs. Billy Welker
 Mrs. Ida Wellman
 Mr. Carl Wellman
 Mrs. A. E. Wemmer
 Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Wessel
 Mr. & Mrs. Amer Whelpley
 Dr. & Mrs. R. Wiessinger
 Mr. Russ Wiessinger
 Mr. John Wiessinger
 Mr. Joe Wiessinger
 Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Wildermuth
 Mrs. Mary Wingate
 Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Wolf
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl B. Wolf
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl W. Wolf
 Miss Esther Wolf
 Mr. & Mrs. Gustav Wolf
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wolf
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Wolf
 Mr. & Mrs. Ross Wolfe
 Mrs. Paul Wolff
 Mr. Edward Woll
 Miss Alvina Woll
 Miss Evelyn Woll
 Mr. & Mrs. Arnim Woll
 Mr. & Mrs. W. Youngquist
 Mr. Niles Youngquist
 Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Zapp
 Mr. Ed Zapp, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Zapp
 Mr. Robert Zapp
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Zapp
 Mr. Harry Zapp, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Zapp
 Mr. Gary Zapp
 Mrs. Charles Zerante
 Miss Patricia Zerante
 Mr. Roger Zerante
 Mr. Tom Zerante
 Mrs. Betty Ziegenbush
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Elsass
 Mrs. Lillian Hites
 Mrs. Richard Mahaffey
 Mr. & Mrs. Claude Harrison
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack G. Moyer
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Howard
 Edward Becker
 David Brutzer
 Terry Burkholder
 Pamela Cummings
 Tom Fairburn
 Susan Fifer
 Barry Flack
 Richard Heaston
 Robert Howard
 Walter Kincaid
 Jeannette Linton
 Richard Meihls
 Dianna Neidemire
 Rebecca Niemeyer
 Steve Norton
 Alice Offenbacher
 Robert Peters
 Tom Riegler
 Judith Schwark
 Jack Schlosser
 Terry Scott
 Karen Staver
 Marianne Vitz
 Richard Walters
 Linda Weick
 Christine Winegardner
 Mr. & Mrs. John Asa Jones
 Miss Norma Easterly
 Miss Alma Easterly
 Mr. John Kennedy

OUR CHURCH BELL

ITS MESSAGE AND ITS CHALLENGE



"MY PLACE IS HIGH BUT TO AN
EVEN HIGHER PLACE DO I CALL
THE PEOPLE THROUGH THE
SOUND OF MY BELL"

"MEIN PLATZ IST HOCH DOCH
HOEHER NOCH RUF ICH DIE LEUTE
DURCH MEIN GELAUTES."

From its lofty position in the steeple, the great church bell has summoned our people to worship since the present building was erected in 1887.

The minutes of the building committee and consistory under date of September 18, 1887, directed that there be engraved in the very metal of the bell ordered from the McShane Bell Foundry, Baltimore, Maryland, the German message set forth herein. In grateful appreciation of the gift of the purchase money from the Ladies Aid Society, a further inscription was ordered to be placed in German on the bell:

*"DIESE GLOCKE WURDE BEZAHLT VON DEM
FRAUEN-VEREIN DER DEUTSCHEN EVANGEL-
ISCHE REFORMIERTE GEMEINDE IN LIMA, OHIO,
BEIM BAU DER KIRCHE. A.D. 1887."*

("This bell was purchased by the Ladies Aid Society of the German Evangelical Reformed Congregation in Lima, Ohio, at the building of the Church. A.D. 1887")

Carved in the side of the bell, these inscriptions are legible today. Records disclose that the bell cost \$355.59, while \$12.67 was expended for freight charges, \$1.50 for drayage and \$4.00 for labor in installing it in place.

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Weighing 2,080 pounds, the same as the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, it has majestically stood through the administrations of all Presidents of the United States from Grover Cleveland to John F. Kennedy. It has been an observer when the sacred rites of baptism and confirmation have been performed. It has rejoiced when couples have been united in marriage. It has grieved when the life of a member has been terminated by

death—a toll rope not used for many years still bears mute evidence of a function once performed.

The most striking characteristic of our beloved bell is its call to our people "to an even higher place." It now challenges our people to serve the Master with even greater loyalty in the second century of our existence.

Der Herr Sei Zwischen
Mir und Dir Wenn
Wir Auseinander
Gehen.

The Lord Watch Between
Me and Thee while We
are Absent One from
the Other.

Separate quartered oak frames containing the above Mizpah Benediction, printed in German and English were made by Mr. Otto Rhoda and Mr. Thomas Burkhardt in April, 1913 for the Young Peoples Society of the German Reformed Church. For many years the frames were prominently displayed in the basement of the Sunday School Annex.

It is indeed fitting to conclude this Centennial Souvenir Booklet with the same fervent thought. May indeed the majestic temple of worship at Wayne and West Streets in Lima, Ohio, The First United Church of Christ (Evangelical and Reformed) continue to be a hallowed place of worship and devotion.

"Lo, I Am With You Always, Even Unto The End of the World." — MATT. 28:20

“WER DIESES WASSER TRINKT, DEN WIRD WIEDER DUERSTEN.

WER ABER DAS WASSER TRINKEN WIRD, DAS ICH IHN GEBE, DEN WIRD EWIGLICH NICHT DUERSTEN.”

“WHOSOEVER DRINKETH OF THIS WATER SHALL THIRST AGAIN.

BUT WHOSOEVER DRINKETH OF THE WATER THAT I SHALL GIVE HIM SHALL NEVER THIRST.”

John 4: 13-14







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